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THE COLLEGE VOICE

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2010 VOLUME 34 • ISSUE 18



Commencement 2009 NAYAN POKHREL / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The Revelation of St. John '09

Student Commencement Speech Found to be Largely Plagiarized

LILAH RAPTOPOULOS
MANAGING EDITOR
&
BEN GITKIND
STAFF WRITER

CELS Fellow, Senior Admission Fellow and four-year tour guide, alumnus Peter St. John embodied the Connecticut College image. And so his was an image they used; his face appeared on promotional materials, Admissions encouraged him to give speeches to prospective students and College Relations filmed him giving a tour of his room for YouTube, which immediately became the most popular video on their page. Peter was one of his few classmates, mid-recession, to have a job and apartment lined up for that summer: the job for a boutique PR firm in Manhattan, the apartment furnished and waiting in Brooklyn. But his last formal action before receiving his diploma was to give a speech comprised substantially of someone else's words.

In March of 2009, St. John and a group of his peers were nominated to submit outlines for student commencement speeches. In the second round, a full draft of his speech was selected by a senior speaker selection committee comprised of the Director of the Office of Events and Catering, the Director of Arts Programming, the 2009 Class President and the Dean of Student Life. It was missing a faculty member, as their usual committee member, Ann Devlin of the psychology department, was on sabbatical and went unreplaced.

St. John gave his speech alongside Class President Nick Downing, President Lee Higdon and the keynote speaker, philosopher Martha Nussbaum. St. John's speech was by far the most well-received of Commencement—more relatable and persuasive than even Nussbaum's.

"The hardest part will be to convince ourselves of the possibilities, and hang on," he told the crowd on Tempel Green. "If you run out of hope at the end of the day, you must rise in the morning and put it on again with your shoes. Hope is the only reason we won't give in, burn what's left of the ship and go down with it. You have to love that so earnestly— you, who were born into the Age of Irony.

"Imagine getting caught with your optimism hanging out in today's day and age. It feels so risky."

Tristan Husby was one of the five final candidates. "I just remember sitting there and thinking, 'Mine didn't get chosen, but this is a great speech and I'm glad someone like Peter is marking this,'" he said. "I was glad to be able to associate that with my graduation."

Said friend Kiefer Roberts '11,

who was in attendance that morning, "I'll always remember him saying, just like that: 'it feels so risky.'"

In November, according to Vice President of College Relations Patricia Carey, a member of the Administration received an anonymous note suggesting that Peter's speech was plagiarized. Upon closer inspection, they found that extensive passages and many phrases were not Peter's but writer Barbara Kingsolver's, from her 2008 commencement address to Duke University. Roughly a third of his speech, including the most noteworthy lines and general theme, clearly derive from Kingsolver's writing. Her speech became the skeleton for his.

Kingsolver's address, entitled "How to be Hopeful," is one of Education Portal's 10 Famous and Noteworthy College Commencement Speeches, listed alongside speeches by Winston Churchill, Jon Stewart and Steve Jobs. It has been reprinted on various websites in its entirety.

"The hardest part will be to convince yourself of the possibilities, and hang on," her address said. "If you run out of hope at the end of the day, to rise in the morning and put it on again with your shoes. Hope is the only reason you won't give in, burn what's left of the ship and go down with it. The ship of your natural life and your children's only shot. You have to love that so earnestly— you, who were born into the Age of Irony. Imagine getting caught with your Optimism hanging out. It feels so risky."

According to St. John, his nomination was concurrent with the nomination of a close friend from another college; they decided to work with each other to produce something memorable for their respective schools. When his friend was eliminated from the running, he emailed St. John a document full of his preparatory notes, and suggested he use them. St. John described it as a document full of disjointed paragraphs and sentences, which he implemented in writing the speech to emphasize the points he knew he wanted to make.

"I felt an expectation to produce something amazing," he said. "And that's not to say that what I did was justified, because it absolutely wasn't. But everything I said, I meant. There was absolutely no malicious intent, no Googling 'ten best commencement speeches.' I was not trying to make people believe I had written her words, and would have cited her had I known. I used things suggested by a person I trusted that I felt would help me push forward a sentiment I strongly believed."

After the affair was brought to light, President Higdon wrote a personal note to Barbara Kingsolver apologizing on behalf of the school. She wrote back accepting the apology.

The school then made a nearly unprecedented move: putting an alumnus through the college's judiciary process for actions committed as a student. Dean of Student Life, Jocelyn Briddell, called St. John in late November requesting he return to campus to appear in front of J-Board. Although the proceedings are kept confidential by the Honor Code and Federal law, St. John's is unassailably a case of plagiarism; the Student Rights and Responsibilities handbook states that plagiarism consists of using the language and/or "the ideas, arguments, or organization of another writer without proper acknowledgment" with no mention to a difference between writing and speech. Moreover, it states "ignorance or negligence is not considered an excuse for plagiarism."

Dean Cardwell, who oversees all hearings, spoke generally of how a process like this occurs. She explained that despite being alumni, individuals are still subjected to the standard proceedings of the judiciary process.

"The only way that you would re-encounter the judiciary process after graduating is if we learned that you did something particularly egregious while you were a student," she said. "Then we reserve the right to bring you back."

However, the issue of how to appropriately punish alumni, specifically in a case as serious as plagiarism, seems complicated when the college has minimal leverage.

"I would venture to say we've never revoked a diploma," Cardwell said. "A diploma is a diploma. You can't really do anything to change that."

According to Peter, the members of J-Board asked him a list of questions, such as whether he believed he deserved the diploma given to him that day (he believed he did). They ruled officially that he be banned from the campus and all alumni functions for a few years.

St. John made clear that he believed in the college's values, and wished this incident hadn't alienated him from a place he cared about after four years of hard and honorable work.

"I fucked up," he said. "I did."

Beyond the walls of J-Board, college administrators chose not to reveal St. John's public display of fraud. Instead, they chose to make his public image go away.

SEE SHORTCUTS, PAGE 3

One in Four

Campus group battles sexual assault against women

JAZMINE HUGHES
NEWS EDITOR

Since last Tuesday's Take Back the Night, the college campus has been plastered with a single ratio: 1 in 4.

According to www.oneinfour-usa.org, the national organization is named after the statistic that one in four college women have survived rape or attempted rape. The signs around campus help to depict this shocking reality: "What if the one was your best friend? Your sister? Your lab partner? A girl who lived in your hallway?"

What if it was you?

One in Four aims to prevent that. "One in Four is a group composed entirely of men who seek to advocate and educate other men about issues of sexual violence against women," said Alexander Owen '12, current president. "Adam Lalor, current Admissions Officer and former director of the national chapter of One in Four, brought a chapter to Conn about two years ago."

Unlike other organizations that work to prevent sexual assault, One in Four targets a specific audience: males. Through "The Men's Program", which, according to Owen, "is designed to reach out to other men... in it, we talk about how it feels to survive a rape, how men can avoid being in situations where things can get out of hand, how men can help a female friend who has survived a rape, and also how men can foster better social attitudes towards women by not using language that puts women down and makes them inferior."

This all-male focus—as unusual as it sounds—works. In an article published in the Journal of American College Health, the Men's Program was shown to "decrease men's belief in rape myths and

significantly lower men's self-reported likelihood of raping for an entire seven-month academic year," says their website.

Owen, who joined the organization during his freshman year after a Dessert and Dialogue discussion, believes that the Men's Program is successful. "Given that men are usually the perpetrators, it is effective to reach out to other men and stop the violence at its source."

Though the organization is named after the nationwide statistic, it raises an important question: is this the reality at Connecticut College?

"I do not know the actual statistic at Conn, but unfortunately one in four is the national statistic. I think the hook-up culture plays a part in that statistic, but I think that the alcohol culture actually affects it more," says Owen. "One of the things we try to explain in our presentation is that while stranger rape occurs far too often, the notion that most rapes occur when a woman is running by herself late at night and is attacked by a man who jumps out of the bushes is false. In most cases, a man who the woman knows carries out the assault. It could be an acquaintance, a friend, or even a boyfriend. Because alcohol is so prevalent on campus, its disadvantages—loss of judgment, particularly—are taken advantage of."

Later this month, the CC chapter of One in Four will be holding the White Ribbon Campaign, as April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The men will be wearing white ribbons, handing them out to other men on campus as a way for them to take a stand against sexual assault. They are also issuing pledge cards, allowing men to vow to never commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women and girls.



Camels win 8-6 against previously undefeated NESCAC rival Jumbos. Lacrosse still undefeated 7-0 in conference, 12-0 overall.

Relay for Life

ANDREW CRIMER
COLUMNIST

As much as you may hate Bright Eyes, you can hardly argue with the title of one of his most melodramatic songs ever: A Line Allows Progress; a Circle Does Not. At least, that's usually true. One of the few exceptions made an appearance on campus Friday evening into night, and Saturday morning. It's called Relay for Life.

The basic premise is that students form teams and raise money for a walk-a-thon which involves students walking in tag-team around the perimeter of Tempel Green. The sponsorship accrued by the walkers, as well as the proceeds

from various vendors and raffles throughout the night, went to the American Cancer Society.

Despite the chill of Friday's rainy evening weather, 44 registered teams walked. The top fundraising team, IS Camel Crusaders, gathered \$5,760 for the cause. The money will go toward prevention awareness and research.

In service of the fundraising efforts, performers from on and off campus filled the main tent with music and laughter throughout the whole event. One of Conn's two improv comedy groups, N2O, gave a half-hour set of their suggestion-based improv games at midnight.

SEE RELAY, PAGE 4

Sports	Arts	Opinions	Editorials
BERNIER PLAYS NEBCA Senior guard received great honor p.8	FLORALIA BANDS REVEALED In case you missed the unveiling last Sunday p.6	DISMISSAL/EXCLUSION How students are left out of key campus decisions p.9	SHARED GOVERNANCE Exploring the newspaper's role in shared governance. p.12

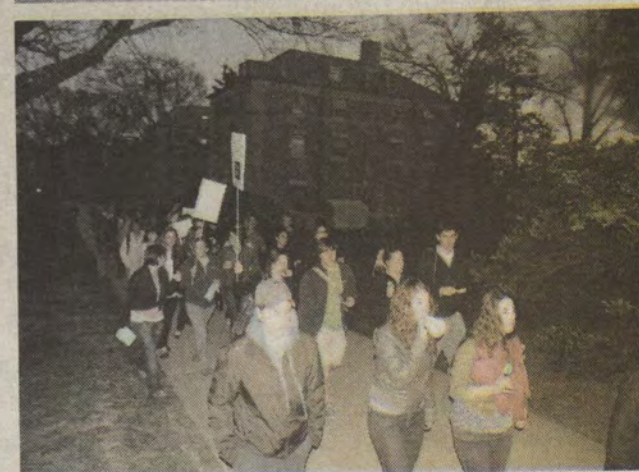


Relay for Life, which took place on the Knowlton Green overnight from April 16 - 17, involved food selling, comedy and musical performances, camping out and a continuous walk around the green by participating team members. The event was organized to fundraise for cancer research and prevention.

See Andrew Crimer's article for more.

RIGHT - Participants in Take Back the Night, a march protesting sexual violence.

The march began with introductory remarks by Professor Jen Manion, who put Take Back the Night in a historical context of the women's movement, and tied the reclamation of corporeal rights to the struggles to end racism, classism and homophobia. The Co Co Beaux and the Shwiffs a cappella groups also performed.



Following the march around the campus, a speakout was held in Crozier Williams Student Center for survivors of assault and those who care about them to share their experiences.



Eclipse, a dance show that celebrates diversity, held two shows Saturday, with performances from the CC Dance Team, Camelbacks Step Team and other members of the college community. The show also featured several "celebrity guests", including Rihanna, Taylor Swift, Kanye West and Amy Winehouse, all of whom were played by students.



Earthfest, rained out of its original date, was celebrated on Tempel Green on Sunday April 18.

Walk for the Homeless to Take Place This Weekend

JEFF BAIRD
STAFF WRITER

This Saturday April 24, New London will be hosting the 3rd annual "Walk For The Homeless", an event organized to raise awareness about the issue and support the Homeless Hospitality Center of New London.

Nine Connecticut College students, as a part of their community-learning seminar in the Holleran Center for Community Action and Public Policy (PICA) have partnered with the Hospitality Shelter to create the three-mile route, which passes by sites in New London that serve the homeless members of the community. The Shelter currently provides 50 beds every night and last year served over 400 guests.

It also supports over seventy homeless citizens as they strive towards ending their homelessness status through job placements, housing acquisitions and encouraging the build-up of personal savings.

Homelessness is a growing problem in New London, as a result of the recession-poor economy and lack of support from the community, which has decreased over the years. As homelessness has increased, so have the negative stigmas about New London.

"There is a really negative perception of New London on our campus because of all the homelessness", explained Janet Tso '12. "It is our duty as Connecticut College students to help and support our college town and make it a safer, more attractive environment."

As students can get involved by becoming a sponsor, walking the route, or volunteering on the day of the walk, all of which are steps toward alleviating the problem. The Shelter also welcomes any food and beverage donations.

Registration on the day of the walk, April 24, is from 9 AM to 10 AM at the Homeless Hospitality Center — 19 Jay Street, New London. There is a \$12 entry donation for individuals that register before the day of the event, a \$10 per person entry donation for groups of five, and a \$9 per person entry donation for groups of ten or more. Each entry donation increases by \$3 the day of the walk. Walkers are encouraged to get additional sponsors.

The Student Activities Council has announced the line-up for Floralia. Talib Kweli, Electrolightz, Downbeat Keys, Barefoot Truth and MOBROC bands will take the stage on Mayday.



A Hyperactive Sampling of the Coffee Offerings at Conn

NORA SWENSON
STAFF WRITER

Conn features a number of options for caffeinated stimulants on campus to help you through your day, and long into the nights.

Presently, there are three concessions specifically geared towards percolation. Starting in South campus and working our way up North, there is the freshly opened *Coffee Shop at Cummings*, now the responsibility of SGA's Academic and Social Spaces Commission. Located in the immediate entryway of Cummings, it's has a great atmosphere with tiled glass portraits harkening back to medieval periods, and its prime location offers great people-watching.

But as one student said while plopping himself down for a beverage with friends, "We need more couches in this joint!"

Seating is limited to three or so small wooden circular tables with art nouveau swirly backed chairs, and a leather love seat up against a wall.

So, expect a wait if you plan on settling down with your brew.

The pricing of beverages sold at *Coffee Shop at Cummings* is quite reasonable, with a cup of coffee priced at just \$1; mochas, chais and lattes for \$3; and an assortment of unique teas like Chinese Ginger Lemon, and Pomegranate Raspberry Green for just \$1.25. It's open from 10 AM – 4 PM, and then reopens for a night shift of 7 PM – 10 PM. Perfect for late night work for those living down south.

Moving north, there is the Blue Camel Café, known for great Americanos and super friendly service from leading barista Lorelei Farntz. Located in the heart of the basement of Shain Library, it's an ideal stop pre-late night studying.

Unfortunately, it costs a bit more than any other café on campus, with an iced mocha running \$4.75. But a selection of moderately priced baked goods and readily available toasters, not to mention the excellent location, seem to warrant the higher prices.

The *Blue Camel Café* is also on Twitter (@BlueCamelCafe) as baristas tweet the café's daily specials, and even offer up the occasional freebies to anyone who

might happen to mention their favorite thing about snow... or any other number of other secret discounts the café's tweets request.

Its hours are Monday-Wednesday: 8:30 AM – Midnight, Thursday: 8:30 AM – 6 PM, Friday: 8:30 AM – 3 PM and Sunday from 1:00 PM – Midnight. It is closed on Saturdays.

Continuing up North is *Coffee Grounds*, nestled within Katharine Blunt (KB), directly to the right after entering. Renowned for hosting some great band performances and even the occasional highly popular Sex Talks, it also happens to be an excellent place to chill and work. Like *Coffee Shop at Cummings*, it is entirely student run and operated. The atmosphere is quite enjoyable, with numerous couches and high bar chairs around tables. Furthermore, often an iPod will be playing a playlist in the style of "New Soul" by Yael Naim overhead.

Be sure to check out their Oregon Chai drink, available both hot and iced, which at only \$2 is a delicious way to brighten up your day. The baked goods at *Coffee*

Grounds also seem to be a particular boon to the café.

As Anne Kearney '12 one of *Coffee Grounds*'s lead bakers explained the direct relationship she has found between the daily baked goods and number of frequenters to the café. "If something is good, people tell other people about it. I know that when I made some Co-CoCo (chocolate-coconut-coffee) brownies, people just went mad over them and a lot were eaten; but the other day, when I made the pineapple cupcakes, very few people came to *Coffee Grounds* with the thought of buying a baked good."

Coffee Grounds' hours are Monday – Wednesday: 8:30 AM – Midnight, Thursday: 8:30 AM – 9:00 p.m., Friday: Noon – Midnight, Saturday: Noon – 6:00 PM, and Sunday: Noon – Midnight. But if even that's not enough time and you aren't quite finished with your work, the adjoining KB Common room bodes for an excellent extended workspace.

As for the more "standard fare" coffee, Crozier-Williams's *Oasis* offers several brews, depend-

ing on the day, ranging from the "Eye Opener" blend to the "Fair Trade Central Highlands," which seems to be a more popular blend. Tropical Coconut, Hazelnut and Chocolate blends have been offered on occasion. As the college's "snack shop," there are a myriad of snacks to choose from to complement your coffee.

Even Harris should not be overlooked, and perhaps should be highly recommended to any coffee drinkers "in-training," looking to wean themselves over to coffee. Harris's "General Foods Curtis Concept Series" Coffee Maker offers Hazelnut and French Vanilla muted flavors of coffee, as well as a hot chocolate option. Infiltrated with so much sugar and chemicals, it's pretty difficult to call it coffee, but nonetheless – it's tasty and can provide you with a small burst of energy to a slow afternoon. There is also a standard fare of coffee and hot water tap for tea.

There's certainly no substitute for real sleep, but in the meantime, Conn certainly provides a few coffee shop options to tide you over.

New York Victims of September 11 Attacks Have Yet to Be Identified

KATHERINE SARTIANO
STAFF WRITER

Back in September, I wrote an article reflecting on the eight years since September 11, focusing on how there are still many lingering issues from the attack that must be addressed. Now, over six months since that piece was published, even more contentious issues surrounding the attack are surfacing.

One issue is that there are still ongoing efforts to identify 1,123 victims of the attacks. Although for the past few years, the government has not continued searching through debris, in the last month these efforts resumed at Freshkills Park in Staten Island. Freshkills is a 2,200-acre park and former landfill that in late 2001 became a dumping ground for much of the debris from the World Trade Center site in lower Manhattan.

From 2001 until 2007, workers under the supervision of the medical examiner's office searched through the rubble for the remains of victims in the form of objects, such as watches, credit cards and keys, which can be identified and given to the families of victims who have nothing else of their loved ones who died in the attack.

Most of these efforts took place during the ten-month period following the attack, when workers sifted through 1.2 million tons of material.

Up until 2007, the workers sifted through 15,000 yards of debris, which resulted in the finding of 1,172 objects that we deemed potential human remains. In 2007, the searches were ended after the FBI, NYPD, and Office of Emergency Management determined that

all discernible remains had been excavated and brought to the New York City Medical Examiner's Office.

However, since 2007, 884 yards of dirt and debris have been excavated from the site of the attack, and efforts to search through these remains began this month. Much of this debris comes from the western edge of the World Trade Center site, where just last year, a previously unknown catch basin of remains was discovered under the street. Now, workers are sifting through this in an effort to find any traces of 1,123 victims whose remains were never found. Officials in New York expect the search process to take six months.

According to the *New York Times*, many families believe that the process has taken far too long and that the city has failed to go through the rubble properly. Many others believe that now, over eight years after the attacks, that the searches are not necessary, despite the fact that thousands of families still have little or no remains of their family members who died on the day of the attack.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg explained by importance of the search efforts when he said,

"There is soil that in theory could — nobody knows whether it does or not — contain remains from the terrible tragedy that occurred on 9/11."

He continued, "We are not going to walk away from our obligation to do anything that is reasonable and practical and affordable to recover and identify any remains that might be there."

Revelation of St. John '09

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

His YouTube room tour can no longer be found online, nor can CC Magazine's archived copy of both the commencement speech and a speech he gave at an open house in October '08 called "Taking aim at 'whatever'."

"Taking the speech off the website was an obligation," said Carey. "Taking it off was a response of integrity."

The only public response by the college was an eight-point-font correction in the "Letters, etc." section of CC Magazine's Spring 2010 issue that deemed their reference to his speech a misquotation.



HAYLEY CURTIS / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

"Correction:" it read. "In the Commencement article in the Summer 2009 issue of CC: Connecticut College Magazine, a quote on page 41 attributed to a student speaker was later found to have been a citation from a previously published speech by the writer Barbara Kingsolver. The College has extended apologies to Ms. Kingsolver for the misappropriation of her work."

Additionally, the 2010 commencement planners have removed the student speaker position from this year's program for the first time in at least ten years.

Briddell made clear that while the Class of 2010's lack of a selected senior speaker appears to be related, it was a discussion that began before the incident. It will be reinstituted next year in lieu of the Class President speech.

According to the Honor Code, a general academic violation is dealt with by the student, the professor who received the material and J-Board. In this case, the material was received by the Connecticut College community, and was videotaped by a professional service for graduates' friends and families. The tape can still be bought online.

Legally, however, the Administration's hands are tied by FERPA, the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, which prevents them from disclosing a student's education record without their consent.

FERPA is one of the reasons that the college dealt with this incident differently from that of dance professor Lan-Lan Wang last September, who falsified two of her claimed academic degrees. With Wang, once the college confirmed an email tip-off, she was forced to resign immediately. Dean

of Faculty Roger Brooks sent out a campus-wide email that week, detailing the events of the incident.

"Because she was not a student, we were able to make that public," explained Dean Briddell. She also made clear that the faculty and Administration do not sign the Honor Code.

In last April's Jane Addams arson incident, the student at fault was required to send out a school wide email in apology. Because St. John is an alumnus, the college judicial system cannot require him to do the same.

Though it appears as if the Administration tried to cover up the

catch [the plagiarism] certainly doesn't speak well of the college itself."

English Professor Simon Hay believes that St. John's rights as a student cannot be taken straightforwardly.

"Part of the problem with thinking about anything to do with rights is that they come into conflict with other rights," he said. "There are rights the family should have in relation to their members' education, but there are also rights that the public has in relation to things like speeches made to them."

While this creates a nearly impossible maze for the school to navigate through, Hay believes the Administration should have found another avenue.

"You can make a brave face of this and publicly put money into education workshops on plagiarism and its contexts, or you can try and cover it up. The latter makes you complicit with it, which makes the school actually a part of the infraction."

However, the Administration stands by their decisions.

When asked if, in retrospect, they would do anything differently, Dean Briddell said, "Absolutely not."

Philosophy professor Simon Feldman specializes in ethics and moral psychology. He also acknowledged the complicated nature of individual rights.

"On the one hand, we are bound by the Honor Code to protect our public image," he said. "We don't want to dishonor ourselves with respect to the way the world sees us. But on the other hand, in order to maintain honor, there has to be some way of publicly regulating and criticizing those we think have done things that are importantly in violation of our values. These things come into conflict sometimes."

Despite the legal and ethical reasons for keeping this incident private, community responses have shown a collective desire for public discourse.

"This desire extends from the fact that most of us share the values of the Honor Code," said Feldman. "And when that code's publicly disrespected, we want some shared activity to engage in. Apart from the punitive, are there ways of collectively reasserting our commitment to the values that were violated?"

In the words of Barbara Kingsolver, "Every betrayal contains a perfect moment, a coin stamped heads or tails with salvation on the other side." J-Board has already rendered its verdict against Peter St. John, but it remains to be seen how his actions and the questions they raise will settle in the eyes of the campus community.

WRITE
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NEWS

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We meet in Cro 215
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Statement from President Lee Higdon

Regarding the Alleged Plagiarism

The alleged plagiarism of the 2009 student Commencement speech was clearly within the scope of Connecticut College's Honor Code. The restrictions on our ability to speak fully and openly about this case stem not from the Honor Code, but from the federal laws known as FERPA, which protect the privacy of student records. Our choices about how to handle this situation were based on fulfilling what we felt to be the College's ethical obligations, while still respecting our legal obligations under FERPA. We fully anticipated that our choices would bring the matter to public attention and that we would be, as we are now, faced with questions about the disposition of the case that we cannot legally answer.

As soon as we became

aware that parts of the student speech were virtually identical to a previously published speech by Barbara

Kingsolver, I wrote to inform Ms. Kingsolver. I extended my apologies on behalf of the College community for the apparent misappropriation of her work. I explained that all aspects of students' academic and social behavior are governed by our Honor Code, and I assured her that we would investigate and pursue the incident fully through the College's judicial process. I told her that we had removed the speech from the College's Web site and would issue a correction in the College's magazine, where the student speech had been quoted. All these actions have been taken.

In her gracious response, Ms. Kingsolver expressed

her sympathy and her confidence that this unprecedented incident was not representative of the quality of education and students at Connecticut College. At her request, we provided her with a copy of the student speech. She did not, as far as I know, choose to make the incident public, although that would have been her prerogative.

Respecting the student's right to privacy, I cannot comment in any way on how this case was handled by our judicial system. However, speaking in general terms and without specific reference to this case, I want to assure the College community that we take every allegation of academic dishonesty very seriously and that appropriate sanctions are applied when it is found to have occurred.

Relay for Life

Taking Steps Toward Curing Cancer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We like doing benefits and smaller venues," said freshman Quinn Menchetti, a member of N2O. "They asked us, and we were like, 'hey, that's a good cause.' Cancer's really lame. Let's be practical: what's going to get rid of cancer quick? Money. And that's what Relay for Life is doing."

The crowd that gathered in the tent, taking refuge from the deluge, was a mix of students, community members, and faculty, both walkers and supporters.

"It seemed like there were a lot of people there who just came down to see what Relay for Life was," said sophomore Pete Konowski, who performed with his pop-rock band You're So Hip! as well as the a cappella group Vox Cameli. "People seemed pretty happy about it despite the fact that it was miserable and cold."

Since the walkers had elected to spend the night on the green, the events programming helped them stay engaged and gave them something to do in their off time from walking the trail.

In addition to performances and entertainment, Relay for Life also featured

speakers who shared testimony about their own experiences with cancer as survivors and as supporters of those diagnosed. The oscillation of emotions between laughter and silence, or dancing and crying, gave the tent a mixed atmosphere.

"No one wants to be reminded of cancer," said freshman Cecilia Brown, who walked on a team called Dancing and Healing. "One minute you're having fun and listening to music, and the next, you're having a moment of silence. It's hard to make a cancer walk into something fun for college students on a Friday night. But I guess there's no other way to do it."

Despite the incongruity of somber reflection and revelry, the event planners successfully brought in large numbers of students and supporters, and many of those in attendance gave money to the cause.

"It was really nice to see a lot of people getting active at Conn," added Konowski. "People actually wanted to get involved the best they could. It's a nice passing away of apathy – for just a split second."

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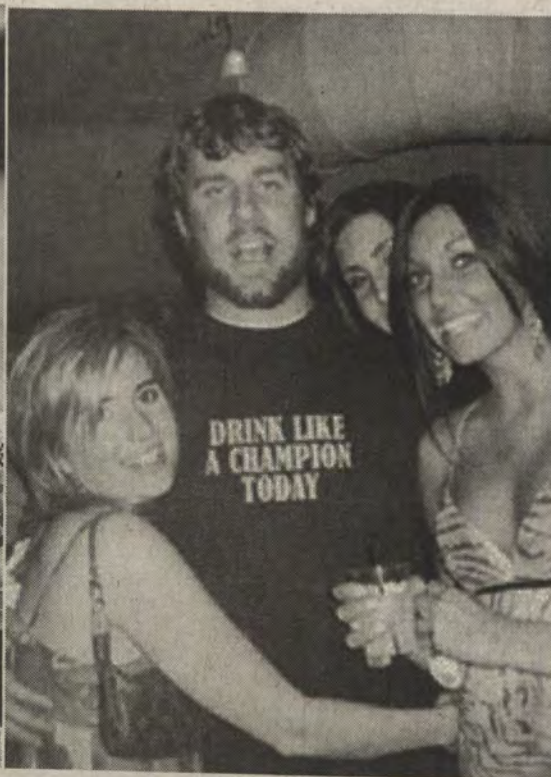
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Ben Roethlisberger out partying again... Is this what a champion looks like?

Big Ben in Trouble Again

Pittsburgh Steelers QB Charged With Sexual Assault...Twice

SAM PERLEY
STAFF WRITER

In case some of you guys have not been following NFL news lately, Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger is back in hot water again. Mr. Roethlisberger was recently involved with his second sexual assault allegation in the past nine months to add to his already turbulent behavioral history record, which includes a June 2006 motorcycle crash in which he was wearing no helmet and almost bled to death. Oh goodness Ben, where do I begin?

For starters, Ben, you need to stop putting yourself in these situations. Your first predicament took place in Lake Tahoe, CA after a 31-year-old casino hostess named Andrea McNulty filed a civil lawsuit against you in July 2009. She claimed you sexually assaulted her in June 2008 while you were in town for a celebrity golf tournament.

Based on the lack of physical evidence, the fact that McNulty didn't file a civil complaint when this actually happened (which was over a year prior to when the civil suit was filed), and that she was overheard bragging to co-workers about having consensual sex with you, my best guess is that you're innocent and were simply caught in a bad situation. We all make mistakes and all NFL players tend to get at least one freebie under the league's personal conduct policy. This is your freebie, Ben. Learn from it and do not do it again.

Flash forward to March 2010. You're in Milledgeville, GA at the Capital City nightclub with some of your friends. One thing leads to another, and by the end of the night you're talking to the police again after a 20-year-old female student from Georgia State claims you

sexually assaulted her in the bathroom while you were intoxicated. And although the local district attorney did not file charges, why in the hell are you putting yourself in this same situation again? You still have the ongoing civil suit filed by McNulty that is fresh in everybody's mind.

It is a shame Ben Roethlisberger does not have a *College Voice* subscription because if he did he could've read my article a few months ago when I wrote about Gilbert Arenas and his gun problems. There is a really simple solution to avoiding situations like this. Stay home. Don't go out to the bar, nightclub or whatever. I'm sure you have millions of dollars and a fabulous, luxurious house. Entertain yourself there. Watch basketball on your 100" plasma screen television. Think of something to do because you have unfortunately forfeited your right to go to social places like bars and nightclubs because you cannot stay out of trouble or the limelight of the media.

Even if you were going out to bar and had one beer, it only takes one person to snap a cell phone picture of you at the bar and the next thing you know we see headlines on ESPN of "Roethlisberger Drinking Again" or "Big Ben Back on the Bottle" even though you weren't doing anything criminal. But because of the situations you've put yourself in, every little move or mistake you make is going to be incredibly scrutinized. As sports radio host Dan Patrick likes to say "you're one bad Friday night away from a major suspension from the NFL." It's safe to say you're going to be suspended for at least a few games at the beginning of the 2010 NFL season after your meeting with commissioner Roger Goodell.

You're a two-time Super Bowl championship quarterback. People know who you are and know what you look like. You have to understand you have a target on your back. I know it's unfortunate but there are women out there (and I am not saying McNulty and this Georgia State student) that get involved with men that have money and make up allegations or stories in order to extrapolate money from you while in the process severely tarnishing your image. We all saw this with the Duke Lacrosse case so it certainly is within the realm of possibilities. But you cannot just blame them because you are the one putting yourself in dangerous situations with your poor judgment and decision-making.

And it's not just your image being affected. The Pittsburgh Steelers are considered one of the most respected organizations in the entire league. They just traded Super Bowl MVP Santonio Holmes to the New York Jets for a fifth-round draft pick because they were tired of his constant run-ins with the law and they could easily pull the trigger on you.

You make the Steelers look like fools for putting up with your antics, you embarrass the most respected owners in the game in the Rooney family, and you do a disservice to your teammates who have to deal with the constant answering of media questions about you and your sexual assault cases.

Not to mention all the fans, especially kids who look up to you as their favorite player only to have their parents explain the real reason you are on television so much right now when it is not even football season. Get your act together because it's time to grow up, Ben.

NHL: Teams Begin Quest for Stanley Cup

NATE CORNELL
CONTRIBUTOR

With the MLB season well under way and the NBA playoffs just around the corner, the quest for Lord Stanley's Cup is often overlooked and forgotten on this campus. But for some, including myself, playoff hockey is the most thrilling, captivating event in all professional sports. To put it plainly, sudden-death overtime, bitter rivalries and oh yes, the playoff beard makes the months of April, May and June the most enjoyable, yet destructive, time of the year. And luckily, having been born and raised in the Garden State, playoff hockey is not a hope, but a guarantee. Because the New Jersey Devils have made the playoffs for thirteen consecutive seasons, who better than I, a Devils fan, to present you with a look at the upcoming 2010 NHL playoffs.

Rather than discussing the first round match-ups, I will begin with an alarming disclaimer: The Washington Capitals will not advance to the Stanley Cup Finals. Alex Ovechkin can score goals, no one can argue with that, but until the Capitals prove that they have more to offer than just one line I do not see them advancing past the conference finals. To go far in the playoffs a team cannot rely on one man, even if his nickname is Alex the Great. So call me crazy, but the cup will not be parading down Pennsylvania Ave this June. Sorry Charlie.

With 15 other teams all vying for Lord Stanley's Cup, the question remains, if not the Washington Capitals, then who? Of course the

obvious choices out west are the San Jose Sharks, or the Chicago Blackhawks. And with the accusations of Danny Heatley and Rob Blake, I expect the Sharks to avenge their untimely exits in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009, but not to hoist the cup.

My prediction for this year's Western Conference champ is the quiet Vancouver Canucks. With a talented group of goal scorers, expert defense and of course exceptional goaltending in Roberto Luongo, I anticipate the Canucks to reach the finals. This past Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Luongo proved to his home country and the world that he is the rising goaltender in the NHL and nothing would look better next to his gold medal than one of the most valued trophies in all of sports.

In the East, the choice is obvious: the Boston Bruins ... just kidding! The only positive thing going for the Boston Bruins is the following statistic: the last team to enter the playoffs to record the most goals scored in one season (2009) and then the least amount of goals the following season (2010) went on to the Stanley Cup Finals in 1994.

Call me biased, but the New Jersey Devils will advance to the finals this year. With the addition of Ilya Kovalchuk, the greatest Russian hockey player in the NHL, and the tremendous talent of Martin Brodeur in goal, I see this series having Olympic potential. Excitement surrounding Vancouver this past winter will be revisited as Canada's greatest goaltenders compete for the cup.

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Write for Sports!

SAC Announces Florialia Performers

JEFFREY BAIRD
STAFF WRITER

This past weekend the Florialia bands were released during dinner in Harris.

The headliner is none other than Idle Warship, better known as the recent side project of underground rap superstar Talib Kweli (pronounced KWA-LEE).

For those unfamiliar with the name, Kweli is an underground rap legend — first rising to underground fame back in 1998 after releasing a joint album with fellow Brooklyn rapper Mos Def under the name Black Star — and over the past ten years he has released one of the most consistent and high-quality bodies of work of any rapper around.

Many collaborations (2000's *Train of Thought* with Hi-Tek, 2007's *Liberation* with Madlib) and four solo albums (2002's *Quality*, 2004's *The Beautiful Struggle*, 2005's *Right About Now* and 2007's *Eardrum*) later, Kweli has a major label deal (Warner Bros.), his own imprint (Blacksmith Music), and a new side venture, Idle Warship, with longtime collaborator Philadelphia singer Res and Canadian singer/rapper Graph Nobel.

Last year the trio released a new mixtape, *Party Robot*, which had music critics and internet bloggers everywhere bowing down. The mixtape, at fourteen tracks

long, features a number of remixes and original tracks that contain a smooth fusion between the artist's individual styles, blending alternative hip-hop, soul and indie pop.

As performers, the group has been consistently rocking the stage as they tour the country, earning large crowds and a strong following due to Kweli's great stage presence and widespread fan base. I'm probably going to regret saying this come Florialia night, where getting close to the stage is a wild, lawless free-for-all, but I'm here to give warning: you are going to want to be as close as you can.

While everyone is always most focused on the artist in the highly-spectulated headliner spot, there are a number of other great musicians coming that you need to know about as well.

Let's start with Electrolightz, the L.A.-based four-piece that will be the night's opener, a more-than-deserving warm-up for the Kweli trio. This electro-dance-hip-hop collective is one I had no knowledge of before writing this piece, but after hearing their newest mixtape *Electrolightz* in full, I know that they are going to leave the stage with a lot of new fans. The group is composed of singer Rami Dearest, rapper Namebrand, drummer Kash, and producer ErOc, which literally formed over night after hitting it off during a studio session. Recently they have been playing sold out shows in Las



Vegas and Los Angeles with LM-FAO, turning their dance album into a big dance party. Couldn't be more fitting to get the night going right.

Starting at noon up through when Electrolightz hits the stage their will also be a number of smaller-name performers. Some of you may already be familiar with DownBeat Keys the now Brooklyn-based indie hip-hop collective, which formed at Hamilton College just a little over a year ago. Self-described as hip-hop funk/R&B, the sixpiece features vocalists Ill Will and Sim, who are backed up by a full live band. I've been listening to their latest release, *Invisible Ink*, and can tell their music is perfectly suited for the college party scene.

Back again will be Barefoot Truth, the folk/rock jam band hailing from Mystic, CT, who is preparing to release a new album this year. Also back again is everyone's favorite 80s dance party cover band, Orange Crush, who is sure to deliver some great renditions of old favorites. And if that's not enough yet, there will also be a handful of MOBROC performances, featuring Conn's best bands and DJ's.

I imagine you are counting down the days until May 1. I know I am. Check out all these performers if you haven't done so already, thank SAC, and let's hope for some great weather.

PHOTO FROM WEB

Pokemon, I Choose You!

Reviewing the Latest Handheld Pokemon Games

MATTHEW ROLIN
CONTRIBUTOR

I have fond memories of Pokemon. Back at my elementary school, anybody who was anybody spent recess frantically thumbing their Game Boys in a race to see who could catch the most Pokemon (or who could get carpal tunnel syndrome first). We bought into the lifestyle, wearing Pokemon-branded clothes and planting ourselves in front of the TV every morning when the show came on.

What was it about Pokemon that made the game so successful? At the time, most role-playing games pit you and your party against some evil tyrant or god. The highlight of these games was watching your party become more powerful and battling bosses. Your party would randomly encounter generic enemies as they progressed through dungeons, and would wind up fighting the same thing over and over. This made most of the game pretty tedious.

The innovation of Pokemon was in making these random battles desirable. Any time a random Pokemon appeared you could attempt to catch it. Your entire party was essentially made up of creatures that, in many other games, would be nothing more than a speed-bump to your next level. Combine that with super cute character designs, a cartoonish world, and a relatively easy gameplay and you have the makings of a multi-billion dollar franchise.

The general Pokemon formula hasn't changed much over the years. You catch Pokemon, train them, battle gym leaders, and eventually take on the Pokemon champion. Little changes have been made here and there, such as the battle frontier for the hardcore players and events that only occur on certain days of the week, but the core gameplay has remained largely unchanged.

HeartGold and *SoulSilver* are remakes of the second set of Pokemon games. New Pokemon games are almost always released in pairs, with a few Pokemon exclusive to each version, to encourage you to bug your friends to buy the copy you don't have.

As remakes, *HeartGold* and *SoulSilver* are wildly successful. The original game has been faithfully reproduced and improvements from later games have been brought over. Wi-fi battles and trading have been added, and there's just more overall to keep you interested. The old casino

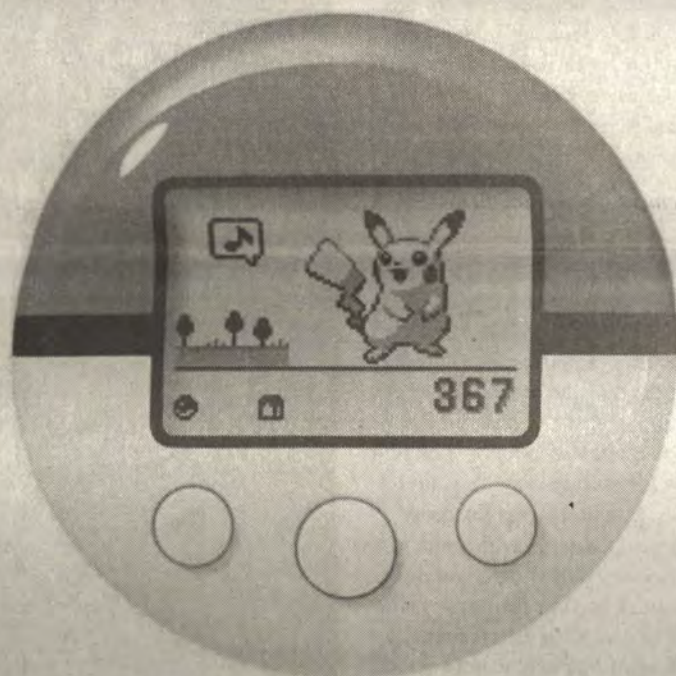


PHOTO FROM WEB

minigame has been replaced with "Voltorb Flip," a surprisingly addicting minesweeper variant that I confess I have spent far too much time playing.

Graphics are vibrant, pleasing to the eye, and the Pokemon sprites are just as cute as ever. The sound is adequate. My main complaint is that the sounds the Pokemon themselves make are identical to the sounds found in the old Game Boy versions. Some people will like that for the old-school nostalgic feel, but they still feel a little out of place when compared to all the updates.

A pedometer, called a Pokewalker, comes with every game, in what is most likely an attempt to reduce piracy. You can put any Pokemon on the Pokewalker, and for every step you take they will gain one experience point. For every ten steps you take you gain one watt, a unique currency that can be spent on the Pokewalker to catch Pokemon or obtain items. Watts are also used to unlock new areas on the Pokewalker, allowing you to catch a wide variety of rare Pokemon. At first I thought the Pokewalker was just a gimmick, but it is surprisingly engaging. Maybe it's just the gamer in me always trying to break a score, but having walked more than the day before is strangely rewarding, and having it affect the game is just more incentive.

The gameplay itself is what one has come to expect from a Pokemon game. Catch Pokemon, battle trainers, explore, level up. The formula holds up and is still engaging; however, the game is not without its problems. Frankly, excluding a few of the later encounters, the game is a cakewalk. Enemy trainers will frequently

have a team of three or four of the same Pokemon, which just makes fighting some trainers tedious.

Moreover, throughout the entire game, only three or four of the hundreds of trainers I battled ever switched their Pokemon mid-fight — a tactic crucial to doing well in the game. The main challenge in this comes in the form of the "battle frontier," a series of different challenges against enemy Pokemon who have been trained very effectively. There are a few problems with this mode. It takes a decent time investment just to reach the tower, maybe twenty or thirty hours if you rush through the game.

The game also never really teaches the player how training Pokemon actually works. When a Pokemon defeats another Pokemon, the Pokemon gains a bonus to a stat, which correlates to the Pokemon it defeated. Only a certain number of these bonuses can be earned per Pokemon. Through normal play, the stat bonuses will be spread about evenly. Pokemon in the battle tower have all the bonuses put into two or three stats, making them devastating. The only way to learn how these bonuses work is through online guides and forums.

So, should you buy *HeartGold* or *SoulSilver*? If you've played a Pokemon game, it's pretty much more of the same, though that's not necessarily a bad thing. Playing the game with friends also makes the experience exponentially better. If you've never played a Pokemon game, it's a good place to start; but, if you're looking for significant innovations on the formula, then you should probably stay away.

Predicting Summer Blockbusters

MATTHEW GENTILE
STAFF WRITER

A couple of things happen in the earlier weeks of May. The sun shines profusely and people flock to the cinemas because, as of the first weekend in May, the spring-summer blockbuster season officially begins. When you look at how movies are released throughout the year, it's as if the studios put films out on a rotating wheel. January/February you get the formulaic rom-coms and chick-flicks, March/April you get a comedy, a low-grade horror flick or two, September and October is dead-time, November and December comes Oscar season — but beginning with May and ending in the second or third week of August, you have the blockbuster season, and that is what we are going to take a look at.

It will start strong with Marvel's *Iron Man 2*, where Robert Downey Jr. will be returning to his comeback role as playboy-genius-millionaire Tony Stark. He charmed audiences two summers past in 2008, and I have no doubts that he and the Marvel team will do a great job again. Plus it will be exciting to see Mickey Rourke headline as the new villain, Whiplash. You can anticipate high opening weekend numbers. The first one opened with a whopping \$100 million back in 2008, so this sequel could potentially break *The Dark Knight's* record for the highest opening weekend gross.

By taking the same weekend they took ten years ago with *Gladiator*, Ridley Scott's new take on *Robin Hood* opens on May 14, featuring Russell Crowe in the title role, who has crash dieted and run himself ragged to return to prominence as an action star. Judging from the trailer, I thought it looked absurd and awesome at the same time — I hope it performs to be the latter. Whether the studio is intending for this picture to be an Oscar winner like *Gladiator* or just a popcorn flick is beyond me.

As for what else is in store for May, the latest entry in the *Shrek* franchise, *Shrek For- (Four, get the pun) -ever After* is opening May 21. While *Shrek The Third* struggled to find critical acclaim in its 2007 release, it easily gained box office success grossing nearly \$900 million worldwide (mainly in international grosses) — so there's no doubt as to why DreamWorks pushed out a fourth one for three

years later. If this one conquers like the last one did, it will be another franchise that is critic-proof a la Michael Bay's *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*.

An interesting film that could answer a lot of questions in the moviegoers' minds is *The Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time*, starring Jake Gyllenhaal in the titular role. I saw the trailer and had my doubts. However, it is the first time that a movie based on a video-game has received a large budget (reportedly, the production budget has reached \$150 million), a big-name star, a relatively respected director (Mike Newell is quite prominent in England and North America), a prolific producer (Jerry Bruckheimer, whose films, whether good or bad always manage to break box office records). The Walt Disney Company to give it their stamp.

From the looks of it, it's a step up from the video-game based movie adaptations we're used to, like the infamous Uwe Boll films, or other low-grade barely B-movie attempts like *Hitman*, *Far Cry*, *Resident Evil*, or *Postal* — just to name a few. If *Prince of Persia* does well — both critically and commercially — we could be looking at a whole lot of video-game movies to come, like *Halo*, *BioShock*, and others — and hopefully, they will be put into the hands of good/great directors. If it performs poorly, then it will probably be a long time before we see a big-budget movie come out that's based on a game.

The *Sex and the City* sequel concludes May and enters into June, where blockbusters will be thrown at us left and right. You have *Get Him to the Greek*, the *Forgetting Sarah Marshall* spin-off featuring Russell Brand and Jonah Hill leading an all-star cast featuring all kinds of popular musicians like P-Diddy as himself. There is the TV series remake surfacing soon, *The A-Team*, which star Liam Neeson, *The Hangover's* Bradley Cooper, and last-year's newly-famous *District 9* South-African star Sharlto Copley, could be a potential hit. Rivaling *The A-Team* that same weekend will be the reboot of *The Karate Kid*, which star Will Smith's son Jaden and Jackie Chan, and is being directed by Harold Zwart — whose film credits include *The Pink Panther 2* and *Agent Cody Banks*. I do not SEE BLOCKBUSTER PAGE 6

Predicting the Summer Blockbuster Season

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

anticipate greatness, and I hope *The A-Team* will be victorious, but the Smiths are box-office gold.

Next week my most anticipated film of the summer will be released, the long-awaited *Toy Story 3*, which, featuring the same voice cast led by Tom Hanks and Woody Allen, seems to be a sure-fire hit. Taking advantage of new technologies like the improvements in animation and the popularity of 3-Dimensional cinema, the Pixar Team has never let us down – and *Toy Story 3* has the potential to be an actually good third installment in a franchise. That same weekend comes along the dark, R-Rated graphic novel adaptation *Jonah Hex*, featuring actor-du-jour Josh Brolin in the lead and eye-candy actress Megan Fox.

On June 25, the new competition will be between Adam Sandler's new vehicle with frequent collaborator Dennis Dugan, *Grown Ups*, featuring an ensemble cast including Kevin James, Chris Rock, David Spade and Rob Schneider. Also opening that weekend is Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz in *Knight and Day*. The film falls under my least-favorite genre – rarely has an action comedy elevated beyond light-hearted studio dribble. It, however, does have a few things going for it from worth-watching director James Mangold and Tom Cruise.

It ends in June and picks up on July 4th weekend, which generally is the destination for most summer tent-pole releases. Occupying this weekend is the third entry in the *Twilight* saga – *Eclipse*. Like other franchises, the *Twilight* films happen to be critic proof, something we could attribute to perhaps the superficial appearances of the cast with the likes of Pattinson, Stewart and Lautner.

Also taking that weekend is M. Night Shyamalan's *The Last Airbender* based on the original Nickelodeon series. Shyamalan is writing, directing, and producing the picture as always. You will not see me at the movies on this July 4th weekend.



Those films will reign as the major blockbuster-wannabes right up until July 16, when two major studio pictures will go head-to-head for the #1 spot – Disney and Jerry Bruckheimer's kid-friendly, Nicolas Cage starring, *National Treasure*-esque (I only say that

because it has the same studio, producer, star and director) take on *Fantasia: The Sorcerer's Apprentice*.

Rivalling it will be Christopher Nolan (the director who brought you classics like *The Dark Knight* and *Memento*)'s science-fiction/

neo-noir thriller: *Inception* where your mind is the scene of the crime. With a reported budget of \$200+ million and Leonardo DiCaprio in the lead, Warner Brothers is banking a lot on what appears to be a quite complex thriller that seems to resemble *The Matrix* and

Blade Runner.

There are many other films coming out this summer – you don't need me to tell you that. These films I have selected up here are what seem destined to be the largest blockbusters, and from the look of it, I'd say our odds are 50-50 as to whether or not we'll have a summer filled with great popcorn flicks like 2008 and 2007, or whether we'll have another 2009 on our hands where no blockbuster was worth seeing twice, except for maybe *Up* and *Inglourious Basterds*.

As for what I think will be the highest grossing film of the summer and subsequently the year, it is my belief that *Iron Man 2* will conquer the box office in its entirety. It is very common for a second movie in a franchise to be the highest grossing one (as is the case with *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *X-Men* and *The Dark Knight*) and *Iron Man* built up strong national and international fanbases. Robert Downey Jr. is not only back, but as a star he's bigger than ever (*Sherlock Holmes* did \$450 mil worldwide) and is quickly climbing his way to being the #1 superstar on the planet, so I predict that *Iron Man 2* will be our highest grossing film of the summer and maybe the year. At least I know I'll be pre-ordering my ticket on Fandango to see it the night it is released.

As for what I think will fail and succeed, I feel that *Robin Hood* should find an audience; Ridley Scott and Russell Crowe haven't let us down yet, except with *Body of Lies*. *Toy Story 3* I'm sure will be another phenomenon and complete the trilogy nicely. It looks somewhat similar to other summers, though fortunately enough it is not flooded with comic book movies and an excessive amount of sequels. Most of these films are not capitalizing on the new 3-D gimmicks, and we also have many new ideas on the scene. With some new original films, perhaps the summer blockbuster season of 2010 will have a lot to say about the future of cinema.

Album Review: MGMT's *Congratulations*

ETHAN HARFENIST
STAFF WRITER

If you are picking up *Congratulations* with high hopes that it will be jam-packed with electro-pop singles that you and your girlfriends can chant along to, or you just can't wait for the Justice remix, I regret to inform you that you are out of luck.

The second album from the Management (or MGMT) is a supremely psychedelic, progressively glamorous rock extravaganza, with not one attempt to recreate

the success of what gave them such immense radio play. I must admit that I was taken aback by this latest outing by these Wesleyan hipsters. But then I reminisced about listening to *Oracular Spectacular* for the first time and realized I should have seen this coming. MGMT's sound got completely mislabeled due to the success of singles "Time to Pretend," "Kids" and "Electric Feel." These three songs stand out as notable exceptions on their debut. Lest we forget that *Oracular...* was filled with songs like "4th Dimensional Transition" and "Future Reflections" – for the most part, straight-away psych-pop.

Congratulations is a continuation of these musical trends. Ben Goldwasser and Andrew VanWyngarden pack all of their psychedelic ambitions into the record, the result being the audio equivalent of a circus. "It's Working," the ecstasy-fueled, harpsichord-tinged opener, is an upbeat and joyous piece that evokes the dawning of

the Age of Aquarius. "Flash Delirium" follows suit, with fuzzed out basses and progressive rock chants, ending precisely on a climax that might blow a lobe or two.

Alongside these songs are gentle ballads like "Someone's Missing," and "I Found a Whistle," glamorous folk rock like the Bowie-esque

"Congratulations," and the twelve-minute marathon "Siberian Breaks." It's hard to believe that there are only nine songs on this album given the amount of ideas dripping

from it. One can't deny the awesome journey this record provides, although it might seem unfocused at times.

It seems that MGMT has used their fame (that they sarcastically sang about on "Time to Pretend") to do whatever the hell they wanted, and they capitalized on the pressure of the "sophomore curse." Inspired by pioneers such as Brian Eno and Television Personalities (check the name drops on the LP), these neo-psychedelic scenesters are striving for greatness in a very interesting way. While they will probably alienate a large chunk of their fan base with the absence of any kind of breakthrough single, *Congratulations* is definitely a better record than their debut, and absolutely worth a listen or five.

Rating: 3 New Athletic Camels.



New Singles of the Week

JEFFREY BAIRD
STAFF WRITER

This week I'm focusing on hip-hop. Whether you're a fan or not, here are four new songs that you probably haven't heard yet, and need to:

B.o.B – "Airplanes" feat. Hayley Williams of Paramore:

It hasn't even been a year since B.o.B rocked the Florialia stage last year as a mainstream unknown (save for the moderate success of his single "I'll Be in the Sky"). These days, with his new single "Nothin' on You," B.o.B is shaping up for a big, big year with his debut album *B.o.B Presents: The Adventures of Bobby Ray*. While the aforementioned single still sits comfortably at #2 on the charts, B.o.B wastes no time in bringing the next, just a few weeks before the album's April 27 release date.

"Airplanes," which was originally the work of Cornell hip-hop/electronic duo Kinetics & One Love, features a reflective, piano-led beat from newcomer Alex da Kid, and a passionate, surprisingly-fitting chorus from Paramore frontwoman Hayley Williams. The Decatur-born rapper/singer/producer raps about the way his life has changed over the past few years as his fame has grown, and how he wishes he could go back: "Somebody take me back to the days / Before this was a job, before I got paid / Before it ever mattered what I had in my bank / Yeah, back when I was trying to get into that subway."

It's more than welcome reassurance that B.o.B is one new artist who is not likely to be changed by fame, even if this very song that laments his newfound success will undoubtedly push him further into it.

The-Dream – "Love King":

This is the smoothest R&B song I've heard since... well, The-Dream's last album, 2009's *Love vs. Money*. The production is easily

distinguishable as the work of frequent Dream-collaborator Los Da Mystro (who produced such hits as "Shawty Is a 10", "Walkin' on the Moon", and "My Love"), complete with a large share of poppy synths and electro flair.

The-Dream has a unique style, and is able to use his tremendous pop ear and songwriting abilities (having penned such radio-wave assassins as Rihanna's "Umbrella", J. Holiday's "Bed", and Beyonce's "Single Ladies") to make radio-ready hits, all the while seeming much more respectable than his fellow R&B/pop colleagues. Maybe it's the light-heartedness, with lines like "Got a girl up in Target, a girl outta college / Sorry ladies but there ain't nothin' like a smart b*tch", or maybe it's his infectious, syrupy vocal hooks, but as we await the rest of his upcoming album *Love King* (due May 18), The-Dream is going to be spending a lot of time on repeat.

Game – "It Must Be Me":

It's been a while since we heard from Game, and it seems like all he's lost is the "The" off his stage name. Going in over a 90s L.A.-inspired Neptunes beat, the Compton MC delivers the street single off of his upcoming June release, *The R.E.D. Album*.

Full of energy, Game starts spitting four seconds into the track, only stopping briefly for Pharrell's stock street chorus, "Something hot in here, it must be me." After a number of failed single attempts ("Big Dreams," "Krazy"), it's stimulating to hear Game sounding like he cares. He also sounds hard again, like back before he released an album of songs in which he teared up about losing Dre as a partner.

Clearly stepping it up lyrically, the West Coast rapper comes with punch lines aplenty: "Them girls that never testify, peace to Common / But Game keep it hood like weaves and Top Ramen."

Back with Dr. Dre again, and a first single slated to feature Justin

Timberlake, expect to be hearing a lot from Game.

Reflection Eternal – "Midnight Hour" feat. Estelle:

Time for some underground. Reflection Eternal, better known as the side project of Brooklyn emcee Talib Kweli and Cincinnati producer Hi-Tek, is releasing a follow-up album next month to 2000's critically acclaimed *Train of Thought*. While not a single, the album cut "Midnight Hour" featuring English R&B-singer Estelle recently leaked, found its way onto numerous blog sites, and thus created extremely high expectations for the rest of the album. The production follows suit to Hi-Tek's common style, which includes smooth soul samples and bright horns. Estelle is actually most prominent here, but it is Kweli who shines strongest, sounding as lively as ever while praising a romance with rhymes like, "I'll make her love come down to Earth, that's worth another round / Can't take another clown, in love with the kid cause he underground."

If Kweli hasn't made you a fan by the time his Florialia performance is over, this album definitely will.

WRITE
FOR
ARTS

Just a Normal Day in the Life of a Camel...

A real look into athletics at Conn

ALEX MARTLAND
STAFF WRITER

Once upon a time, there was a perfectly happy and satisfied college student. He was eating delicious meals and lounging casually on a sun-drenched quad, and thoughts of school work and nagging obligations were concepts as foreign as math to a philosophy major. He was at peace with his life, content to spend the rest of his day in this delightful oblivion without a care in world. Then, from the far-off reaches of his semi-consciousness, a muffled beeping noise began to invade his constructed paradise. The beeping got steadily louder, until finally he fought through the haze and opened his eyes.

Crap.

A day in the life of a Conn student-athlete begins much like any other. Sunny quads are replaced with a misty freezing rain, quality food vanishes in favor of curried cold lumpy somethings from the hotline in Harris, and the full weight of the enormous workload he's been avoiding for the past month (or three) falls squarely on his shoulders. Begrudgingly, the day begins with a trip to a dining hall, the results of which are an upset stomach and a cup of hot black battery-acid coffee, which is sure to only exacerbate the gastrointestinal issues.

The three classes, for which he's woefully underprepared, fly by in a blistering thirteen hours, for seven of which he was fully conscious for. The German Bundesrat get confused with the War of 1812, isosceles triangles with conjugations of Italian verbs, and after a lengthy phone call with his mother ensuring her that the tuition check is going to good use he stops in at Harris for another serving of shapeless egg product.

Once practice rolls around, however, life changes. Just not necessarily for the better. The locker room brings together a diverse group of people all united with one common interest: their hatred for all things practice. Cleats are tied as slowly as possible, the equipment is checked and double checked, and after there are no more avenues to delay the actual practice, everyone walks slowly out to the field.

The first thing with which the team is met when they finally arrive is the coach. Contrary to popular belief, coaches are not hired to motivate. Their job is neither to get the most out of their players,

nor to scout their opponents and formulate a game plan. No, the job of a coach is to pick apart each individual member of their team, find their flaws and point them out to the rest of the team. After that inspiring bit of pre-practice cheer, the coach often tries to rationalize including fitness into the day's plan.

Despite arguments from the goalkeepers (me) that fitness is a waste as we never have to run more than six feet at a time, the coach makes everyone run some amount of miles about which no one is pleased. That is, unless you're on the cross country team, in which case you're absolutely psyched that your coach suggested running to Pennsylvania, if not a little disappointed that you couldn't swing by Toronto as well.

The rest of practice flies by in a blur of oxygen deprivation. At least for me. Sometimes the team is privy to another treat the coach decides is beneficial to our development; watching film. Now, everyone likes movies, so you might think this is a good thing, but it simply is not. Watching *The Shawshank Redemption* with some friends is a lot of fun. Watching Williams wipe you all over the field and beat you by half a dozen goals is not fun. Regardless, the coach thinks this is a positive learning experience, and everyone in attendance spends the next hour watching a TV and cringing periodically.

Sometimes when the teams are very lucky, practices include more running than usual. If the coach keeps you past Harris' operating hours, each member of the team is given a Cro Pass. In theory, these are a solid idea; providing athletes who miss dinner a way to get some kind of quasi-nutritious food in their system. In reality, however, Cro Passes are the main reason behind any financial problems Conn has. The passes themselves provide each athlete with enough food to feed all the offensive linemen from my previous article with enough left over for a midnight snack.

Well-fed and thoroughly entrenched in a food coma, the student athletes stumble uncomfortably back to their dorm rooms, where the positively daunting pile of school work accumulating on their desk remains dust-covered and forgotten. Exhausted, they close their eyes and drift slowly back into their familiar dream of sunny paradise and relaxation.

That place is called "the off-season."

Shavar Bernier '10 Plays in NEBCA Senior All-Star Game



PHOTO FROM WEB

Bernier beat the school record for career three-pointers.

SARAH HAUGHEY
SPORTS EDITOR

Shavar Bernier, Connecticut College Men's Basketball senior guard was selected to appear in the New England Basketball Association (NEBCA) Division III Senior All-Star Game this past Sunday, April 18, at Babson College.

The game featured many players from New England colleges who have earned All-American status, as well as All-Region, All-Conference and Conference Player of the Year honors.

In March, following the 2010 season, Bernier '10 was named to the All-NESCAC Men's Basketball Team. During the Camel's

final regular season game, he set the school record for three-pointers, sinking six triples against the Bowdoin College Polar Bears on February 13. He finished his career with a total of 203 three-pointers beating the original record of 200.

Bernier finished his final season as a Camel, ranked 10th on the all-time scoring list with 1,187 points in addition to a total of 343 rebounds, 220 assists, and 154 steals. He led the NESCAC in steals with an average of 2.13 per game and finished second in the league for free throw percentage (.875) and three-pointers made (2.83).

Head coach Tom Satran is extremely proud of Bernier and excited that he was given the op-

portunity to compete with some of the nation's best players in the All-Star game on Sunday.

Satran reported on the athletics website, "I am very happy for Shavar. His work ethic and commitment to his coaches and teammates over the past four years has been of the highest caliber."

Bernier and Satran have built a strong relationship over the past four years.

"Coach has been like a father to me since I've been here," Bernier said. "I'm so lucky to have him as my coach."

The first man in his family to attend college, Bernier will graduate in May with a degree in human development.

2010 Camel Athletics Coming To A Close

ALI McPHERSON
CONTRIBUTOR

Conn's Camel Athletic teams have been doing well this season. With a new, fierce mascot and the season winding down, our athletes are giving one last push to win their final games and make it to the NESCAC tournament.

The men's lacrosse team has certainly made a statement throughout not only the NESCAC conference, but also the entire country. The men are now ranked 8th in the nation, and players have even earned national honors. Senior attacker Steve Dachille, of Garden City, N.Y. has been named the Inside Lacrosse/Nike National Division III Player of the Week, a huge honor. The undefeated, 11-0, Camels have only a few games left to clinch a perfect season. The Camels defeated the United States Merchant Marine Academy on Tuesday, April 13 and Tufts on Saturday, April 17, but there are three games left that the Camels have to win; they will face Wheaton on Monday, April 19, Colby on Saturday, April 24 and will end with Wesleyan on Friday, April 30.

The women's lacrosse team is on a two-game winning streak, and is hoping to finish out the season with three more wins. After winning their first NESCAC game

of the season against Bates in a double over-time win on April 10, the Camels beat Eastern Connecticut on Wednesday, April 14. The Camels have two more NESCAC battles left on the schedule; Colby on April 24, and Wesleyan on Friday, April 30. They will also face one more out-of-conference game, on Thursday, April 22, against Springfield College. The women are hoping to end the season on a high note, and make it to the NESCAC tournament.

The men and women's track and field teams are also having a very successful season. On April 10, at an event at Eastern Connecticut State University, two of the Camels came out on top. Sophomores Brigi Palatino and Alex DeShields won two events for the Camels in the 100 and 200-yard dash, as well as the long jump. In addition, Alex Samma '10, was named the NESCAC field performer of the week on April 6. The Camels will finish out the season with their final two meets. On Saturday, April 17, the Camels will hold the Silfen Invitational at the Silfen track and field. They will end with a meet on Tuesday, April 20, at the Amherst Invitational. (Updates after Saturday's meet)

Men's and women's rowing is hoping to end the season with success in their last two regattas. On April 6, the lady Camels won

the second varsity four, and the men placed second in the novice four; also, on April 12, the women won the novice eight, and the men placed third in the novice four at a regatta on Lake Quinsigamond in Central Massachusetts. There are two final regattas this season, one on April 17 against Tufts, Ithaca, Holy Cross, and Clark; and another against Trinity, Wesleyan, and Clark at Lake Quinsigamond. They are planning on doing very well in both races, and ending the season on a high note.

Our tennis teams are also having a great season. The women, currently 6-7, and the men, 4-7, are hoping to win the last two matches of the season. The women will end the season with a NESCAC match on Saturday, April 24 against Colby. The men are hoping to win their last three matches against the Coast Guard on Tuesday, April 20, Wesleyan on Thursday, April 22, and Colby on Saturday, April 24. The tennis teams are hoping to end the season with wins against their NESCAC rivals.

It has been a great year for Connecticut College sport's teams, and the rest of the remainder of the spring season should continue to be exciting. Make sure to head out to the fields, court, and water to see our Camels hold their own in the NESCAC.



Ashley Crutchfield '12 during the Bowdoin game on April 3.

WRITE FOR SPORTS!

OPINIONS

APRIL 20, 2010

Editor: John Dodig

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The First Rule of Fishbowl: Do Not Talk about Fishbowl

JOHN SHERMAN
COLUMNIST

Public nudity: the final frontier. After this, it's all a breeze: forgetting to lock the bathroom stall door, dropping your towel between the shower and your dorm room, losing your bikini bottoms in the wave pool at Six Flags.

In the English-speaking West, our language reflects a protectiveness we have of our own nudity: being literally or figuratively "exposed," "baring all," being "stripped" of your possessions, your rights, your dignity. There is a marked association between vulnerability and nakedness, against which we guard with clothing, single-sex bathrooms (in most places) and the FCC. In some way, modesty and privacy equate safety.

But as we know, college is no place for any of those things.

The infamous "Fishbowl" event every spring is a chance for seniors to get three sheets and two cheeks to the wind in an evening that starts with free beer and ends with a naked run across campus. Participants gather in Cro and start to drink away the layers.

A great deal of planning goes into this incremental striptease — each layer must be its own outfit. What happens to keys and cell phones at this point is one of the mysteries of Fishbowl, but let's be real — if you don't have any clothes in which to keep them, you probably shouldn't be using either. Let's not get *TMZ* too excited.

More pressing than the question of how to layer is the question of how extensively to do so. Some have been counting down to the big streak since freshman year, and for this select population I apply the Nude Beach Rule: those who really like to be naked in public probably shouldn't be. (Nothing personal.) Others say coyly, "I'll see," which means, "I'm a get drunk first."

Then, there are those who say flat-out that they're keeping their (under)pants on, or that they aren't attending at all. In at least a few cases, this is in avoidance of the first Fishbowl archetype. One student was quoted as saying, loudly, "I just don't want to see that much penis!" Indeed, the genitalia of



Actual photo from Fishbowl 2009. Editor's Note: Photos from web. Photo editing by Andrew Crimer.

neighbors and classmates are not easily un-seen.

But are we to imagine that Fishbowl consists of staring at boobs and giggling about dicks? As childish as this sounds, the alternative is simply a kegger minus pants — jeans and bras piling up along the walls as guests converse

The infamous "Fishbowl" event every spring is a chance for seniors to get three sheets and two cheeks to the wind in an evening that starts with free beer and ends with a naked run across campus.

politely over the snicker of the fleshy, pink elephant in the room.

Still, dressed or undressed, many social engagements at Conn seem equally fraught with pointing and snickering about one thing or another. In such a small population, it's hard not to have at least a few salacious tales at hand. Walking around campus as a subject of even one of these is an exercise in embarrassment and exposition. At any given floor party, your salaciostory gets passed around like Solo cups, and some intimate happening becomes common knowledge.

In light of the everyday chatter

of our campus, how much more revealing is it to run stark naked and screaming beside five hundred other people? Or, for that matter, to stand around even half-naked, ogling and being ogled? I think we've done worse.

It must be noted here that Fishbowl is a spectator sport, and one of the most popular on campus at that. While I remember peering out of Branford freshman year at the blur of naked people in sneakers, carrying little bundles of clothing and *whooping* at intervals, more disconcerting was the sideline loitering that happened in front of the library my sophomore year, mere feet from the action.

It's just this sort of spectatorship by the sub-senior community that shatters the sanctity of Fishbowl — at its very core, a bonding experience. Seniors look on one another as equals in a shared exposure, commonly bare and collectively vulnerable in a mad, drunken dash over sidewalks and between trees they've shared for four years. Who are the rest of us to interrupt, much less to pretend we understand? In the last gasps of their undergraduate careers, the reckless abandon of seniors is beyond reproach.

So don't watch — you'll ruin it.

Where the College Is Going and Who It's Leaving Behind

LELAND STILLMAN
COLUMNIST

"We should streak in front of a tour."

"We should wrestle in front of a tour."

"At Wesleyan they actually organize groups of students to streak in front of tours," said Matt Baum '10, a streaking enthusiast. "They want to attract only the most liberal students who will be comfortable with that sort of thing."

What an ingenious technique for student-body-mediated admissions, I thought.

These days, I hear a lot of grumbling about the current administration's policies: it's hard to get permission to live off-campus and you can't apply for it after the specialty housing applications are due; the food is poisonous and they won't let us off the meal plan; the Res Life Office as a whole makes terrible decisions which seem to have neither rhyme nor reason; the college spends money on superfluous landscaping improvements; they won't let us have a senior speaker; they don't care about student government, they are too freaked out about our drinking culture; they won't even let us throw a decent party — the list goes on.

While many may dismiss these complaints as inevitable

(and many of these complaints are doubtless uninformed), there seems to be a general discontent among the student body. Students feel patronized and dismissed by the administration. I don't remember such feelings on campus during my freshman year. The first inklings began with the administration's first criticisms of the campus's alcohol culture. I look around our campus on Thursday and Saturday nights these days and remember how exciting it used to be. By the way, haven't transports increased since freshman year? And aren't some of our most well-loved and successful students, also binge drinkers by official standards? It's these same students — SGA representatives executive board members, national prize winners, double and triple majors and student advisory board chairs from whom I hear consistent complaints regarding the administration.

The problem, as far as I can tell, is that the administration seems more interested in building a brand than in improving the student experience. The flashy camel logo, the variations on the college seal, new walkways, a revamped CamelWeb — are all improvements with no practical value to us, the students. They are more concerned about bad press than with bad student experiences.

Thus, we have new logos, but not

enough money to keep employing some professors.

The administration has practically expunged all traces of the senior speaker's plagiarism at last year's graduation, and has chosen instead not to have a senior speaker at all.

Did they ask the students what they wanted? Did they ask the students what they thought was important? No. Do they care? Leo won't even take five minutes to ratify a commitment to shared governance with the president of the student body. I'll give them the benefit of the doubt and say *maybe*.

On the other hand, can I really blame the administration for its emphasis on attracting better students over coddling current ones? The American educational system is as entrenched as any part of our national culture. Students transfer because things are absolutely miserable or some extraordinary circumstance forces them to leave the college, not because the college is ignoring them.

The challenge for the administration isn't making us happy, it's attracting a better student body. So we get flashy new logos and walkways, scandals are avoided or kept secret and every year we get an email from President Higdon about how great the incoming class is. And from our numbers, apparently things are

SEE CHANGES, PAGE 10

Sun's Out, Guns Out!

A senior predicts spring fashion at ConnColl

JAKE SCHNAIDT
COLUMNIST

As the sun turns on its axis and the season changes from winter to spring to fit our happier dispositions, we, the most rude mammals of New England, inevitably make our quarterly adjustments in body cover. Let's face it, though, we've been in a fashion dead zone ever since James Cameron redefined the verb "to see" with his smurfy multi-dimensional allegory movie. What we did learn from that movie, though, is that the most recurring trend in fashion, spring after spring, is skin. With warm weather comes the inevitable unveiling of more body, more flesh, more elbows and shoulders; more naked. As Mark Twain once naively wrote, "Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society." And with that irrelevant quote, here's my Conn College

trousers? Pants advice: wide-leg trousers are good in the spring because they: 1) allow cool air to run up the pant legs, refreshing those hot calves, and 2) give you a look that says "My legs are on upside-down." That's what I call in-your-pants feminism!

The pantless girls among us are sporting casual sun-dresses, sassing the campus like a pack of hungry brown bears awakened from their thick-sweater hibernations. Other women prefer jeans or leggings (I think cigarette jeans are out — duh), oversized, mock-hipster flannels and canvas shoes that look like they could be torn apart by a stray gust of wind. There are those, of course, who do not fit in to these categories. These

women are plotting something. Quick fashion tip: wear underwear almost no matter what.

As Mark Twain once naively wrote, "Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society."

spring fashion breakdown:

Who are some of the most fashion conscious people on campus? Professors. However, their teacher costumes don't change much from season to season, so I'll leave them alone for now. Campus police, if less well-fed and gunless, would be trendsetters in fashion circles with their short-sleeved blue button-downs tucked meticulously into straight leg black pants. They are also almost entirely moustachioed, and a grand photo shoot of them patrolling at Floralina would be a best-seller if they weren't so adorably bashful and armed. Onward to the students.

Many female students have translated their skin-tight leggings into more modest, breathable running shorts (or just shorter leggings). The casualization of athletic gear is an old trick, but the faux-runner works on a more complex level. By falsely claiming to be runners, they trick everyone all day, and despite never actually running, they get into shape: that's psychology for ya! If we men could walk around thigh-flaunting without the fear of disseminating our freaky leg hairs we'd be all over this, I assure you.

Hey, ladies: what happened to good-old-fashioned pleated

On to guys.

The majority of dudes settle for tees and jeans, some adorning themselves with droopy or torn cardigans to make a statement about country clubs, others wearing windbreakers to make a statement about wind and others yet dressing consistently, year after freaking year, in pastel button down shirts and khaki shorts, most likely without a conscious statement in mind. This combination, along with being the most class-signifying look in New England, is pure mullet: business attire on the torso, golf party on the down-low, and when necessary, fresh topsiders for showboatin'.

This look is the zenith of style; imitate it at your own risk. Hats advice: Fitted caps and their golden stickers are a good choice to prevent pollen from entering your eye-space, but a poor choice for preventing skull sweat. Compromise? Fitted visors. Good luck finding those at your local Foot Locker. Tip: Build up your beer bellies, this is college.

And that is my utterly comprehensive assessment of fashion at Connecticut College this spring. Any deviations in fashion should be punished. Can't wait for this summer! Summer of Skin!

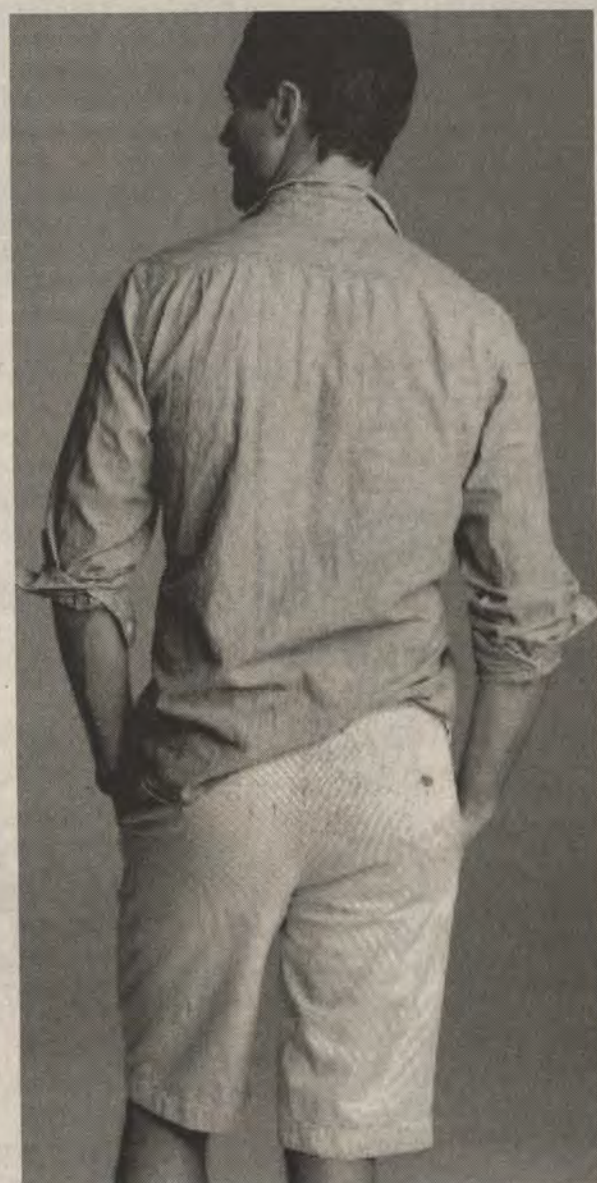


PHOTO FROM WEB

This guy has clearly been heeding Jake's advice.

You Are What You Eat

MEREDITH BOYLE
STAFF WRITER

At first glance, the banana appears benign: the curved, soft, cheerfully-yellow fruit is the most consumed fruit in the United States and the European Union, but a closer look into the production of bananas yields a tragic story of violence and oppression.

Banana giants Chiquita Brands International and the Dole Food Company have troubling histories of supporting paramilitary groups in Colombian banana lands: the left wing Armed Revolutionary Forces of Columbia (FARC), and the right wing United Self-Defense Forces of Columbia (AUC). Both of these groups were declared terrorist organizations by the United States Department of State in 1997 and 2001, respectively.

In 2007, Chiquita was charged with paying the AUC \$1.7 million in protection payments from 1997 to 2004, despite full cognizance that the group was considered terrorist. Chiquita had also been making payments to AUC's rival group, the FARC, beginning in 1989 and continuing until at least 1997; Chiquita's records show that up to 10 percent of the company's gross revenues was forwarded on to the FARC during this time. In this case, Chiquita pled guilty to violating U.S. antiterrorism laws, and settled the case with a \$2.5 million settlement.

Widows and mothers of men kidnapped and killed by these terrorist groups are now beginning to speak out against the company and seek compensation for injuries under the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1991. It should be noted that similar suits have been brought against Dole, the most recent of which was in 2009. The families bringing suit against Chiquita claim that the company supplied the rebels not only with payments but also with weapons and ammunition. Chiquita also allegedly filled the employee roster with fake names and nonexistent employees, then used the extra money to pay the terrorist groups.

James Thompson, Senior Vice President of Chiquita has defended the company by saying the payments "were motivated by the company's good faith desire and concern for the safety of all of its employees." However, as ex-paramilitaries have begun to step forward in Columbia, it has become increasingly clear that the payments indeed were not an act of forced extortion as previously claimed, but rather an avenue by

which to protect the company from rampant opposition.

Particularly incriminating was the confession of Jose Gregorio Mangones Lugo, referred to as "Carlos Tijeras." Tijeras was the former commander of the William Rivas Front of the AUC, who operated in the banana lands. As commander, he claimed he had a very close relationship with not only Chiquita but also Dole, and he provided them anything from "security services" to the kidnapping and assassination of labor leaders pegged by the companies as



Bushwack, Director of Dining Services, claimed she would be forced to eliminate something in the menu to make up for the losses. While I personally wouldn't miss ham with fruit or chicken cordon bleu, it is understandable that many students would be upset by the loss of their favorite entrees in exchange for bananas that wouldn't physically appear to be any different from before. Another danger with purchasing more expensive fair trade bananas is that, with the new higher price, Dining Services will purchase fewer and

the supply of bananas will decrease. Also, because there are not enough fair trade bananas to meet the demand, becoming reliant on fair trade may mean severe shortages, leaving Conn students banana-less for days at a time.

Furthermore, it has recently become evident that the fair trade system is very flawed. For the most part, the middlemen and grocery stores are the primary benefactors of

Photo from web. fair trade banana sales because they are the ones who jack up the prices and reap the rewards. Farmers only receive a fraction more for producing fair trade than for producing regular bananas; often the extra cash they make is not enough to ensure a higher living standard, as the fair trade philosophy touts. As fair trade grows more popular, more and more corporations are striving to become certified in order to "green-wash" their companies and make them appear more eco-friendly to the consumer. As a result, companies with questionable motives have been certified as fair trade.

Because of all this, I am no advocate for switching to fair trade bananas on campus, but I am advocating reform of the fair trade industry. Companies need to be rigorously tested before being certified, and also they must be routinely investigated to ensure a high degree of commitment. The monetary difference between regular bananas and fair trade bananas should be given directly to the farmer, not the grocery store. As soon as a viable alternative exists to Dole and Chiquita bananas, real economic pressure can be placed on the companies to examine with scrutiny the way in which they conduct business abroad in comparison with how they would be legally bound to conduct business at home in the United States.

Sources:
CNN.com
The RAW Story.com
BananaLandCampaign.org
NYTimes.com

"security problems."

Tijeras asserted that anybody designated to be a "problem" was executed immediately.

This shit is clearly bananas. It is immoral for American citizens to continue to support U.S. companies Chiquita and Dole as they wreak havoc and fund terrorism in their plantations abroad. The question is, what can be done? Ideally, Chiquita and Dole would be hit the hardest should the demand for bananas sharply decrease in the form of a boycott. However, it is unrealistic to think that Americans will give up their favorite fruit to protest against human rights violations. That's simply not the American way.

In the case of bananas, we really are what we eat. A Colombian widow whose husband and son were kidnapped by rebels warned, "The next time you eat a banana, take a closer look at what you are really putting into your mouth. You are feeding yourself pure violence."

What we need are better alternatives to Chiquita and Dole bananas. I was happy to discover that Connecticut College's Dining Services has already taken a step in the right direction by providing bananas from Turbana Corporation, whose human rights record isn't nearly as questionable as Chiquita's. Perhaps with respect to humanitarian concerns, the next logical step for our campus would be to pursue the fair trade option; however, I find this option rife with potential problems.

By paying markedly higher prices for the same product, Ingrid

New Directions at Conn

CONTINUED FROM CHANGES, PAGE 9

getting better. Every year we hook a better, faster, stronger and statistically superior freshman class.

I don't doubt these statistics, but what I ask is, are we attracting the students we want? Are we improving the image of the school not for the public or the average prospective student, but only for our future Goldwater, Fulbright and Winthrop Scholars? For our prize-winning students? Or, looking even further ahead, people who are going to be leaders in our society, future politicians, entrepreneurs and doctors? We should also desire students who understand and care about the mission of this college.

Of course, the administration has funded lots of new things, including the Women's Center and the LGBTQ Center, but then again, they only seem interested in funding things that advance a certain image of the college rather than the broadest desires of the student body. They didn't pay

any attention to the fact that by renovating the basement of Burdick for the Women's Center, they displaced the Martial Arts, Belly Dancing, Ballroom Dance and Wrestling Clubs, some of which are very active on campus.

They seem to have a vision of where they want to take the college, a vision in which we had no say: a vision we don't seem to share.

Maybe it hasn't occurred to them that our desires aren't going to change anytime soon, and that maybe fulfilling those desires is what will really make this place a better institution. Maybe they don't understand that the best and brightest of our students come here not for the beautiful campus or new facilities, nor even for the small class sizes and personal relationships with professors, but to join a community where the opinions and desires of students are respected and where we have a voice in our education: a voice that is heard and heeded.

IS THERE AN
ARTICLE YOU'VE
BEEN PLANNING
TO WRITE ALL
YEAR?

YOU'VE GOT ONE
ISSUE LEFT!

MAKE YOUR VOICE
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Campus Trends: Bad News Beards

ANDREW CRIMER
COLUMNIST

Have you ever seen *Braveheart*? I have. That's why I know the quintessential man's man (Hans Solo notwithstanding) is a bearded man. Certain campus males discovered the simple social fact of The Beard early this year, and what do you think they did? They grew beards.

The impact was, to quote the title of a 90s asteroid thriller, deep. Every Harris visit became a *Where's Waldo* of facial hair. But the second wave of hirsute majesty, tidal though it may have been, was disingenuous. The imitators were only trying to cash in

on a trend well established among the ranks of those endowed with the most fortunate of genetics and the most Wild Western levels of testosterone. In short, they were hopeless *poseurs*.

The no-shave swell crested around February. Our fair campus was a thrift store approach to chin accents and nose highlights. Any style within 200 years, from muttonchops and full beards to the late-70s Ron Jeremy, was present for the peeping at any given moment of the day. The first non-ironic moustache growers, duped by misunderstanding into the belief of social acceptance, grew bolder; they grew whiskers.

The competition intensified.

Those endowed with sufficiently abundant facial hair began to see themselves, whether consciously or on the level at which one knows one is losing ground to a rival in competition for the Zooey Deschanel of the local feminine sect,

*Growing begets
shaping, and shaping
requires upkeep.*

as competitors in a triathlon of beard-and-moustache-cultivation-provess. Growing begets shaping, and shaping requires upkeep. Like horticulturists circa 13000 BCE, the beard-growers of Connecticut

College began to specialize.

Some decided to go for volume. Beards approached Santa Claus proportions. Entire complements of whiskers formed themselves overnight into simulacra of Wikipedia photos of 1800s-era politicians. The competition intensified.

Suddenly, without even Paul Revere's codified lantern system of warning, warm weather came. As though the Civil War managed to reprise its first three quarters within a vacuum of time's passage, deserters began to appear everywhere. Beards vanished left and right like the illusions of dreamland as the afternoon sun begins to penetrate the psychic shield of a deep hangover.

So where do we find ourselves? This land is now one of scant beards and even rarer moustaches. Only the manliest, or the least likely to give a rat's butthole, remain in the running for beardliest.

Are we better off? Was the short-lived winter rush of beard-growing merely a fad? An enticement to the members of our campus most eager to demonstrate their similarities to the Alpha Wolf? I think not.

As the number of tour attendees grows daily, blooming in the warmth of the New England sun like a hothouse flower, we students should feel an obligation to demonstrate our commitment to upholding the centuries-long legacy of academic face-decorators. Without beards, our campus is nothing but a retirement home for the incapable.

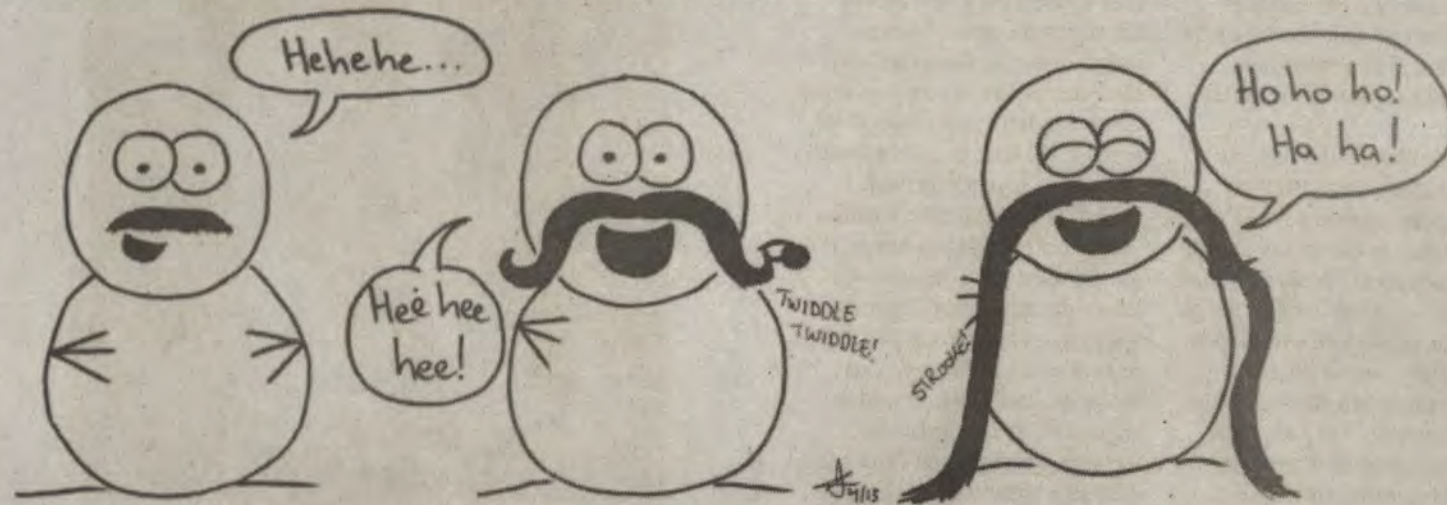
I ask you, dear readers: disregarding the discomfort, inherent patriarchal sympathies, and general affect of complete and impotent posturing of a beard, would you ever want to learn from an Academy of the Beardless?

The beard is life. The beard is purpose. Above all, the beard is a statement of commitment to traditions of development. The beard is yours for the shaping.

Be like a flower, thriving in the lengthening daylight hours of spring.

Grow.

Spicy Black Bean Soup starring Boof: Fun with Facial Hair



Spicy Black Bean Soup by Justin Levy

Campus Politics: This Week in SGA

DANIEL HARTSOE
COLUMNIST

I'd like to begin this article with a correction. I stated in my article of March 4 that the parking proposal in front of the Student Government Association would reduce the number of parking spaces on campus from 1800 to 1500. The proposal actually would reduce that total by 96. I apologise for any confusion my mistake has caused.

In this week's meeting, SGA tackled Resolutions 29 through 32. These resolutions represent the continued restructuring of SGA that officially began a few weeks ago. Each of the four resolutions brought before the assembly was passed by a large majority.

Resolution 29 restructures voting procedures for SGA elections, as well

as disbanding the "Spirit Committee," a branch of the Public Relations Committee. Elections are now held electronically over CamelWeb, so SGA has deemed the rules for conducting polling at physical locations (and the procedure for re-counting the votes) redundant and unnecessary.

Resolution 30 allows SGA to bypass a student referendum in passing changes to the SGA constitution, or "C-Book." The Commission on SGA Restructuring proposed this resolution, and the assembly passed it because "the resolution (Resolution 29) proposed changes that were largely nonsubstantive." A look through Resolution 29 shows that this is the case — the resolution only changed the election procedures that were made redundant by the switch to electronic voting, and the rest of the changes, besides the termination of the Spirit Committee, were a re-formatting of already-existing language.

Resolution 30 also stated, however, that a referendum on Resolution 29 would not be necessary because "respective parties have already been informed and participated in amending the committees amended" — in other words, many members of the student body (specifically those most knowledgeable about the amendment process) had already had a chance to voice their opinions during the amendment process.

That does not seem to me a valid excuse for curtailing direct democracy.

SGA can override a required referendum — and changing the C-Book requires approval from the entire student body via a referendum — with the consent of 4/5 of the assembly. That does not mean they should override a referendum whenever that is possible. The amendments of Resolution 29 might be cosmetic, and perhaps a referendum would have merely mired a simple issue in campus politics, but the assembly should refrain from bypassing their constituents when a more controversial

C-Book change arises. If the members of the assembly want increased political participation amongst the student body, they should keep the political process as open to the student body as much as they can.

The remaining resolutions (Resolution 31 and Resolution 32) changed procedures for impeaching a member of the SGA Executive Board and restructured the class committees, respectively. The requirements for impeaching an Executive Board member have been lowered to make it easier to remove incompetent members from their positions, thus raising the bar for conduct in those positions of

power. Members can now be impeached by both the SGA assembly and their respective committees or constituents.

The greatest point of contention regarding

the structure of class councils was whether the class-elected Judicial Board representatives should serve on their respective class councils as they currently do. Corey Testa '10, Chair of the Judicial Board, argued that they should not, because they serve their respective classes by providing unbiased judgment, and also because the information they receive in J-Board hearings is confidential. For that reason, they have little to report to their fellow class members.

Other members of the assembly argued, on the other hand, that J-Board representatives have the same responsibility to report to their respective classes as class SAC representatives have, and should therefore not be exempted from this responsibility by being allowed not to attend class council meetings.

In response to this disagreement, several members of the assembly proposed severing the links between these four J-Board positions and the four classes by filling these positions through school-wide elections instead of through class-wide elections, and by replacing the position held by class J-Board representatives in the class councils with another elected student position.

This last proposal seems to me the best option, since the duties of a J-Board representative have almost nothing to do with direct participation in class events, whereas the primary purpose of the other class council members, such as the SAC representative and the Class Social Chair, is to organize social events. Moreover, J-Board should be made as independent and distinct from external student groups and political organizations as possible to minimize bias in hearings. Perhaps the class councils should be required to solicit a semesterly or monthly report from their respective J-Board representatives rather than tying up an entire class council position on a representative that lends little expertise to carrying out the functions that the class councils most frequently perform.

If the members of the assembly want increased political participation amongst the student body, they should keep the political process as open to the student body as much as they can.

Exploited by the Bottle

Looking beyond the economics and examining the high cost of bottled water

MICHAEL MEADE
CONTRIBUTOR

When you pop the cap off of that bottled water in front of you, do you ever wonder where the water actually came from? How about the manufacturing processes involved in its production? Besides the satisfying hydration, do you ever appreciate the men and women who pumped the oil to produce the plastic bottle, packaged the water and finally delivered the package, wrapped so conveniently, to the store for you?

The excesses of the bottled water industry are innumerable.

Worldwide, 2.7 million tons of plastic are used each year to make water bottles, but in the United States, less than twenty percent of these bottles are recycled. The plastic waste that is not recycled often ends up in the middle of the ocean, suffocating birds and disrupting the hormonal balances of fish.

The total estimated energy needed to make, transport and dispose of one bottle of water is equivalent to filling the same bottle one-quarter full with oil. In addition, three liters of water are used in manufacturing a one-liter bottle of water. On top of all this, bottled water can cost up to ten dollars per gallon. That's compared to less than a penny a gallon for water from the tap.

One International Bottled Water Association expert estimated that

almost 40 percent of bottled water originally comes from a city water system.

So why is the bottled water industry so successful today? The most logical and legitimate explanation is that the water from the tap is unfit for drinking. Throughout most of the developed world, where the majority of bottled water is consumed, this is simply not the case. A comprehensive 1999 report by the Natural Resources

Worldwide, 2.7 million tons of plastic are used each year to make water bottles, but in the United States, less than twenty percent of these bottles are recycled.

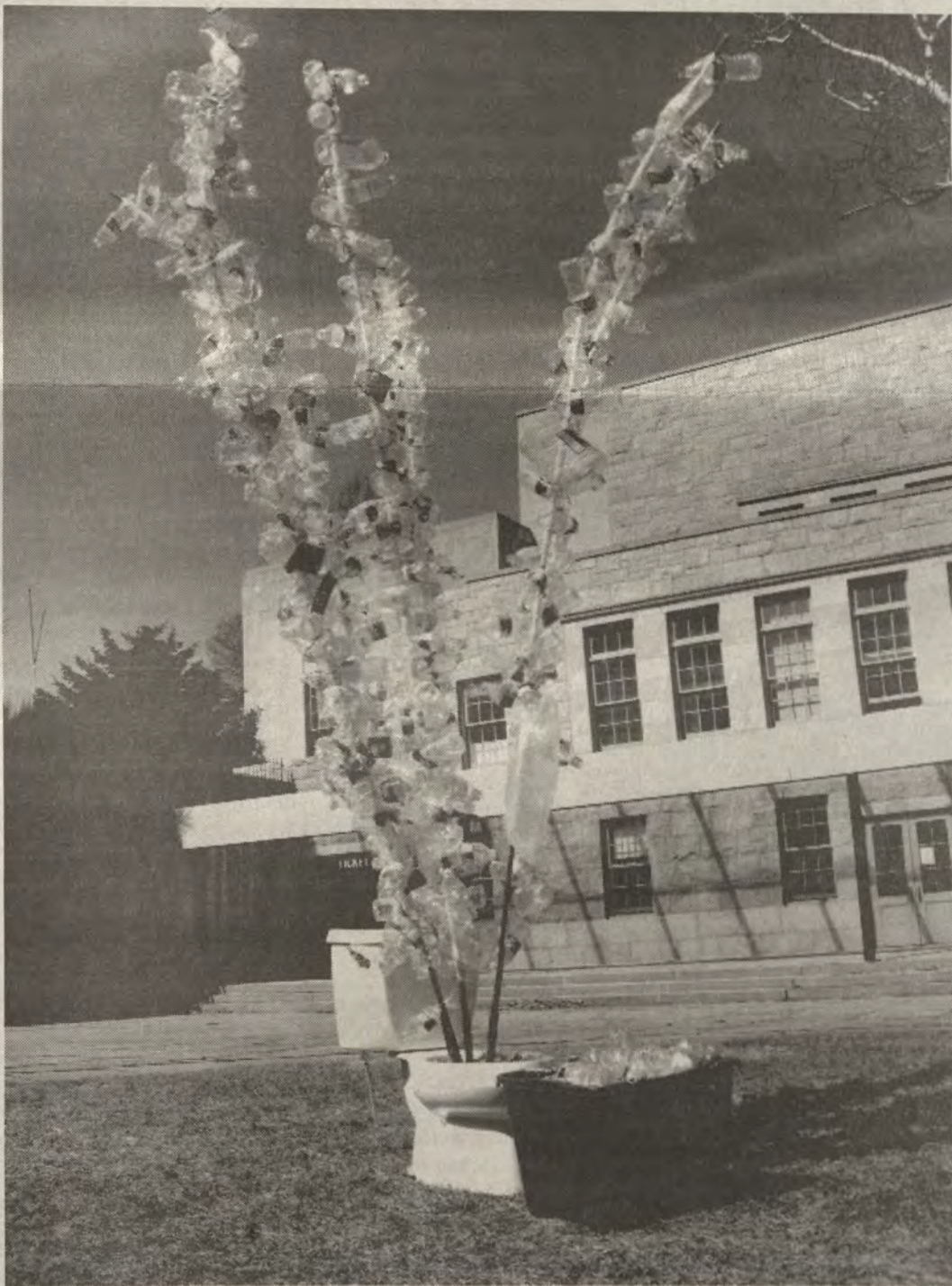
Defense Council entitled "Bottled Water: Pure Drink or Pure Hype?" includes the results of a poll addressing why people drink bottled water, highlighting that, "as of 1993, nearly half (47 percent) of bottled water drinkers used it at least partially out of concern for their health and safety and 35 percent drank it as a substitute for soft drinks and other beverages. 17 percent said they chose bottled water for other reasons — such as 'taste' (7 percent) or 'convenience.'"

The question is, when do any of these reasons outweigh the pollution involved in the bottled water industry?

The fact is that the tap water in Connecticut is some of the cleanest in America, drawing from pristine reservoirs upstate. Indeed, New London water infrastructure could be upgraded with pipe system renovations and improved filtration technologies (findings by the Environmental Working Group in a New York Times "Toxic Waters" series highlight three contaminants in New London tap water above health guidelines set in the Safe Drinking Water Act), but in comparison to much of the world, we are blessed with very clean drinking water.

While working on an independent study project this semester using art to encourage awareness about water consumption issues, I collected hundreds of water bottles from every corner of campus to use in a sculpture which is now on display in Castle Court (next to the Cummings Art Center) and was surprised by the excessive use of bottled water on the CC campus. Rather than driving to the store to restock your bottled water supply, why not simply use a refillable container — save some oil, some fish and your money.

If you would like to learn more about the complexities of the bottled water industry, please come to the free screening of *TAPPED*, Wednesday, April 21 at 7 PM in Oliva Hall in Cummings Art Center (co-sponsored by SAC and Oceana).



MICHAEL MEADE/PHOTO CONTRIBUTOR

Another example of "thinking outside the bottle": Michael Meade's independent study project on display in Castle Court.

SAC CALENDAR

Off-Campus: Clinton Crossing Outlets Trip, Sat. April 24, 1:00 - 6:00

Off-Campus: Beach Outing, Ocean Beach, Sun. April 25, transportation provided as well as some food, 1:00 - 5:00

And here's a brand new event! SAC is sponsoring Conns first Harris' Top Chef. A campus wide e-mail will be sent out can you can send in your best recipe using only ingredients you can obtain from Harris on a regular basis.

April 20, at 5:45 the participants selected for the competition will have their recipe evaluated by a panel of judges, including President Higdon!

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APRIL 20, 2010

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POLICIES**Letters to the Editor**

All members of the Connecticut College community are encouraged to submit letters to the editor, articles, photographs, cartoons, etc.

All submissions will be given equal consideration.

Letters to the editor are accepted from any member of the college community on a first-come, first-come basis until noon on the Saturday preceeding publication. They should run approximately 300 words in length, but may be no longer than 500 words.

All submitted letters must be attributed to an author and include contact information.

No unsigned letters will be published.

The editor-in-chief must contact all authors prior to publication to verify that he/she was indeed the author of the letter.

The College Voice reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, grammar or libel. No letters deemed to be libelous towards an individual or group will be published.

The College Voice cannot guarantee the publication of any submission. These policies must be made public so every member of the college community maintains equal opportunity to have their opinions published.

Articles

All articles must be received by the appropriate section editor by no later than 4 PM on Fridays, or by the deadline set forward by the section editor(s).

Advertisements

The College Voice is an open forum. The opinions expressed by individual advertisers are their own. In no way does *The College Voice* endorse the views expressed by individual advertisers.

The College Voice reserves the right to reject any ad it deems unfit to publish because of subject matter, conflict of interest, etc. A distinct line must be drawn between articles and advertisements, and no article should be published with the intent to advertise a particular event, person, place or product.

Any advertisement that resembles an article must be marked "Paid Advertisement." From the date of the last advertisement placement by an advertiser, the advertiser has thirty (30) business days to pay their outstanding balance. They will be charged \$2 per day their payment is overdue.

The College Voice must invoice advertisers an appropriate length of time before the due date.

Editorials

How We Represent Shared Governance and Its Shortcomings

This issue, as is tradition at *The College Voice*, marks the last issue of the year with our current editorial staff. Next year's editorial board will create our next and final issue of the academic year.

Next week also marks the first and only issue during my time at Conn where I will not be a member of the editorial or business staff.

Weird.

What will I do with my weekend days, and sometimes nights, now?

My role at *The College Voice* gave me insight into the power and privilege of shared governance far more than any other role I've had on campus. Being an editorially independent paper affords us a great deal of power, as many faculty members this year have reminded us as an editorial staff.

This is a huge privilege we enjoy. But it is not inherent to our college's unique Honor Code system and shared governance. All other NESCAC papers are also editorially independent, as are the vast majority of colleges and universities. But it is still one that inspires me.

It is what shared governance at

Conn should be.

The newspaper's writers and editors serve as the watchdogs of the campus community because together we control what we cover and how we cover it. The paper does have an advisor, but she has no jurisdiction over our content, offering advice only when we request it.

But being factual is something we take very seriously (aside from some select opinions pieces). It's a form of respect for the Conn community of which we are part and strive to represent truthfully.

Shared governance here is not forced. It is natural as it should be, formed on respect and serving the community.

This year we pushed our autonomy even further by launching the first editorially independent website for the first time in almost ten years. This has allowed us to reach a greater audience of both current students, parents and alumni. It also enables us to share our perspective with a larger audience of prospective students, other colleges, bloggers and reporters from newspapers.

We have some actual control over the way Conn is perceived.

When I was applying to colleges during my senior year of high school, I remember judging colleges based on their student newspapers: what students talk about, how they articulate themselves and their concerns about the school.

Along with reactions to campus events and controversies, this year *The College Voice* focused on the college's relationship with New London, college communication and branding, shared governance, LGBTQ and feminist issues.

I think this year we've taken more ownership of our rights and privileges this year with the articles we chose to focus on, while also establishing credibility by only publishing information that can be verified.

Publishing this week's article on Peter St. John was a culmination of our work this year as an editorial staff: breaking a story we found to be of significant value to the student body.

Peacing out. It's been real.

-Claire

Peace, a farewell term; Or: Engaging in Non-Engagement

Listen:

When I came to this school, it had a radical presence. It wasn't by any means the main scene in town, but it – we – existed, and we organized, and it mattered. In the years that I've been attending Conn, that presence, embodied in large part by CCLeft, has dwindled down to an unrecognizable form of its former self, if it even exists at all anymore.

CCLeft was a chapter of the national organization Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). It functioned as a political forum, where teach-ins could educate those who came to the weekly and sometimes twice-weekly meetings. We worked with the New London community, and spoke with Conn staff to see what kind of support they needed from students. We chalked for fair wages, promoted the college's divestment from multinational corporations that propped up the corrupt, murderous regime in Sudan, voiced our opposition to the celebration of colonial imperialism, protested the wars abroad, even draped a cloth proclaiming the genocidal history of Christopher Columbus over the statue honoring him downtown on the day in October devoted to the destroyer of worlds and culture. We fought to remove unethically-made clothing from the campus bookstore, and led a campaign against the violently anti-union Coca-Cola, even painting anarchical clear nail polish over the plugs of the vending machines that sold these corrupt, nutrient-free products.

These actions didn't instantly

transform the world, but they did draw attention. And they built community. And they could be really, really fun.

I certainly haven't been at the forefront of the effort to keep CCLeft alive, to continue the beat of its southpaw activist heart. This editorial is my last for *The College Voice*, and it's not about just one organization. Rather, it's about what is lost when organizing becomes splintered between groups working for their own hyperspecific causes. It's a conversation I would like to have with you, and for you to have among yourselves, among my fellow seniors and in future classes. It's a conversation about the direction of efforts and care on this campus.

"Because we do care, don't we?" In classes we discuss and investigate sweatshop labor inequity, institutionalized racism, and the ever-present legacy of slavery, environmental degradation and its gendered impacts, the push to drill for oil in areas that should be protected wildlife reserves, religious zealotry and the misogyny it propagates – the list goes on.

But what are we doing about it? How many of us are actively organizing around these issues? In a national climate in which our very president gained credibility and made an impact as a community organizer, we privileged college students should be doing our part to challenge the authority structures that keep those who are different out and down. The powers that keep us fighting two bogus wars. Since former Veep Dick Cheney spoke at the Coast

Guard Academy two years ago, there has not been (to the best of my knowledge) a single protest for peace involving Connecticut College. To me, this is unacceptable. I acknowledge my own role in the problem, the lack of effort I have expended to unite those who would fight for these issues, which are quite literally issues of life and death. But in our work on the newspaper, we try hard to educate, to reach out to the larger community about these issues.

I hope it's been at least a little effective. It will have been worth the late nights and late papers, to me, if you've ever been angered by something you've read in these pages. Whether at us and our staff or at the subjects of our articles, outrage can be one of the most powerful catalysts in the world.

So please, I'm leaving. Get up and organize politically. Community involvement in New London will flounder if it's only about volunteerism and eating in restaurants, activities that are important, and have their place. But there is an activist community already long established in New London, and it's time Connecticut College became a solid part of it. So next time you drive by the intersection of State and Bank and see an older gentleman carrying a Veterans for Peace sign, get out, and ask what you can do. And if you're ever lucky enough to encounter the sonorous chants of the Raging Grannies, a colorful group I would feel fortunate to be a part of in the future, I hope you'll sing along.

- Sam Herndon

Letters

Response to "Warped Perceptions of Change":

Claire Gould's recent editorial about getting used to change was well-intentioned, but I disagree with the message. The argument was based on the fact that many alumni and students get angered at any drastic change in the college, but eventually get used to it. Thus, we should relax and just accept the new logo, just as we've eventually accepted other changes, because traditions are fluid. The problem with this is that this ignores one fundamental thing: change can be good or bad, and sitting back and getting used to bad change is foolhardy, regardless of traditions.

I have some serious issues with the new logo. Besides the fact that neither 'fierce' nor 'sea monster' are included in 'proud', 'strong', and 'dignified,' I struggle to see why we need a new camel mascot at all, especially if it comes with a substantial price tag.

There are many things that the college spends money on, and many of them are good. The campus is being renovated at a rapid rate, improving the area both aesthetically and functionally. There are still parts of campus left behind, however. Take Greer Music

Library, which contains treasure troves of music, but still doesn't even have Apple computers, which are required to log onto the music server. I could go on, but the idea is clear and has been stated before: there are many parts of the college in need of more resources and attention.

But instead of attending to these things, we spend a great deal of money on a new camel logo, ignoring our own art department (and their lower price), and we also create a new casual logo (the new tree in the square on college vans), because we don't want our seal to appear on shot glasses and other unofficial things.

WHO CARES? College Relations, apparently. I've worked with them in the past, and I've found them to be friendly folk, who have great intentions and do some good work, but they still have flawed methods in the end. If all you do is talk about branding, and how bad our current situation is with our vague college name, then the drastic changes will seem worth it. If, instead, you take a step back and pay attention to the state of the college, you can focus your time and

energy on improving it, instead of lying about it. Excuse me, polishing the truth.

As I see it, there are two conflicting theories here. The first, used now, is that if we re-brand and polish our college's look as much as possible, more students will come. It works in the short-term at least, until students come here and discover that not everything is as it seems. The opposing theory is this: improve the college as much as possible, listening to and communicating with the students and address the flaws. If this is followed, then our positive aspects will increase, and we can be openly honest about the greatness of the college. If we focus on improving our academics and facilities, transfers will decrease, students will be happy, and perspectives will know how great we are without any polished truth.

Let's stop wasting money on rebranding, and instead spend our money on reworking. And let students have their official shot glasses - if you don't like it, don't buy it. We have bigger problems.

Sincerely,
Riordan Frost